

DRIVEN

— TALENT COMPETITION —

2025 Official Rules & Regulations

Studios will be required to adhere to all Rules and Regulations required by Driven Talent Competition. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

REGISTRATION

- All Reservations will require a deposit to hold space in events. Any reservation without a deposit attached is subject to be excluded within 2 weeks or sooner of the date the reservation was entered. Be sure to communicate with the registration office for exceptions if needed.
- All entries must be made online, no other format will be accepted. Be sure to include all routines, as NO additional routines will be added at the door.
- Entries are accepted on a first come, first served basis.
- All entries must include the accurate names and Date of Births for all contestants. Levels must be assigned to each performer. Performers will only be permitted to be entered in one level. NO levels will be changed once the schedule is released NOR at the event.
- Any performer that wishes to compete with multiple studios must submit written permission from each studio. Performers attending a particular event with a studio would not be permitted to compete as an Independent at that event.
- Independent entries will only be accepted if the city has space.
- The number of solos may be limited if time is not allowed in a particular city.
- Driven Talent Competition reserves the right to add additional competition days or change venues if necessary.
- The name of the routine may NOT be the EXACT same name of the Studio.

PAYMENTS

- **All fees must be PAID IN FULL to take advantage of our leveled pricing**
 - **Level 1 - 60+ days prior to the event**
 - **Level 2 - 31-59 days prior to the event**
 - **Level 3 - 30 days prior to the event**
- Payments must be made by debit/credit card (no credit card fees will be applied) or direct ACH payment.
 - ACH payments will not be accepted later than 45 days prior to the event.
 - **No certified checks, personal checks, or money orders will be accepted.**
 - All payments must be made no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the event.
 - Late Fees will be applied 29 days prior to the event.
- Once payment is made, studios will receive a summary via email of all routines registered. It is the responsibility of the studio to review this information (including birth date and age division) and reply **immediately** with any corrections.

- **Registrations must be CHECKED & FINALIZED no less than 40 days prior to the event. Any changes made less than 21 days prior to the event will incur a \$10 per change fee. NO level changes will be made once the program has gone to print. All changes must be made in writing, the card on file will be charged at the time changes are made. If no card on file, one must be provided prior to any changes made.**
- All balances must be paid in **full** prior to the competition. Absolutely no payments will be accepted at the competition event.
- All entries must be **paid in full** before routines will be scheduled.
- **No cash refunds will be issued for any reason**

GENERAL DIVISIONS

Solos: 1 performer. Time Limit - 2:45

- Solos will compete in the level they have been assigned by the studio. No soloist may compete against themselves in the same performance category.
- Soloists may not place more than once in the High Score Division
- Starting Line & Breaking Boundaries soloists are limited to 2 solos.
- Other soloists are limited to entering a maximum of three (3) solo performance categories. This does not include Vocal Solos.
- **Duet/Trios:** 2 or 3 performers. Time Limit - 2:45.
 - Duet/Trios may not compete in the same performance category with the exact same performers.
 - There must be at least 1 different performer to compete in the same age group and category.
 - Duet/Trios with the exact same performers may not place more than once in the High Score Division.
- **Small Groups:** 4-9 performers. Time Limit - 3:00
- **Large Groups:** 10-19 performers. Time Limit - 4:00
- **Lines:** 20+ performers. Time Limit - 4:30
- **Production Lines:** 20+ performers. Time Limit - 7:00.
 - Production lines have no specific category (Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, etc.)

All groups must perform with the allotted number of performers specified according to the way it has been registered. If for any reason, there is an added or missing performer, the routine may be moved to the appropriate group size if needed. If that group size had already performed, the routine would be judged for adjudication only. If there are additional performers in a group that were not included in the original registration, they will need to be added and paid for. The average age would be recalculated, and the routine would be judged for adjudication only if the group size and age level had already performed.

- **Extended Times**
 - Small Groups, Large Groups & Lines may purchase extended time at the rate of \$4 per performer for 30 second increments (Lines are limited to a maximum of 6 minutes). Production Lines may purchase extended time at the rate of \$4 per performer for 1-minute increments.
- Routines that are over the time limit may result in a point deduction.

AGE DIVISIONS

Ages will be based on the performer's age as of **December 31st, 2024**

- Age Divisions:
 - 5 & Under
 - 6-8 years
 - 9-11 years
 - 12-14 years
 - 15-19 years
 - 20 and over
 - **Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary and Open Category Contestants will be single age divisions (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).**
- **Determining Age Divisions:** Duets/Trios, Groups and Lines will compete at the average age division determined by averaging the age of all dancers in the group. Decimal points will be dropped. Example – 12.7, group would compete as age 12.
- **Adult Age Division:** Any routine with a performer over the age of 19 will compete in the Adult Division
- No performer will be allowed to perform more than 1 age division lower than his/her age. For example: duet/trios, small groups, large groups and lines, a Senior dancer (age 15-19) would not be permitted to perform in a Junior (9-12) routine, regardless of the average age, except for production lines.
- **High Score Age Divisions:** High Score Awards will be awarded to the Mini (5 & under), Petite (6 - 8), Junior (9-11), Teen (12-14) Senior (15-19), and Adult (20 & Over) age divisions. Please note, any routine containing a performer over the age of 19 will be placed in our Adult division. Adult routines are not eligible for **Driven Dollars**.

LEVELS

When registering performers, each must be assigned a level. Performers may only be registered in one level. A performer's level will not be changed once entered for the season. The following is a guideline for determining the level for each of your performers. Every studio, city, and part of the country have different ideas of what constitutes a dancer being put in a specific level. To be as clear as possible, you will determine the performers' level based on the number of years competing as an initial guide. Please keep in mind other factors such as their overall skill set, and amount of time spent in the studio each week.

- **Level – Breaking Boundaries:** This level has been specifically designed for performers who have different abilities and may face physical or developmental challenges. Focus is placed on spotlighting these performers in their unique abilities in an uplifting, respectful and caring way. Scoring will focus on showmanship, memorization, and musicality. Entries will be adjudicated and will receive High Score Awards within this level.
- **Level – Starting Line:** This level is for pre-competitive performers who have little or no experience competing. and have been dancing for no more than 1 year. Performers in our 'Starting Line' may only remain in this level for a maximum of 1 year. Performers in this level are limited to (2) Solos. These performers will be allowed a TOTAL of (6) routines in

the solo, duet/ trio, small and large group divisions combined. There is no limit on the number of lines, or productions. Entries will be adjudicated and will receive High Score Awards within this level.

- **Level - Accelerating Stars:** This competition level is recommended for performers who have had approximately 2-5 years of competition experience. Entries will be adjudicated, and will receive High Score Awards within this level.
- **Level- Grand Prix:** This competition level is for competitive performers who are at an advanced technical level. All entries will be adjudicated, and will receive High Score Awards. **This is the ONLY level that is eligible to receive Driven Dollars.** In addition, only Grand Prix performers are eligible to receive the Highest Level Adjudication. **Grand Prix performers are limited to compete in a total of (4) Level 2 Large Groups or Lines**

It is at the judges' discretion to move any routine that they feel is placed in a level below their ability to the level in which they feel is necessary. All judge's decisions are FINAL. If the judges determine that a routine should be moved to a different level, and that level has already competed, the routine will then be eligible for adjudication only. If there is a significant point difference from 1st overall and the rest of the Top 10, that 1st place routine may be bumped to the next highest level.

- **Small Groups and Duet/Trios:** The highest level of a performer in a routine will determine the level of the routine. Example: One Grand Prix performer and 8 Accelerating Stars Performers will determine the routine to be placed in the Grand Prix Level. One Accelerating Stars Performer and 8 Starting Line performers will determine the routine to be placed in Accelerating Stars.
- **Large Groups and Lines:** No more than 1/3 of the performers in a routine may be in a higher performance level than the level that the routine is entered. Example: If an Accelerating Stars Large Group has 15 performers - 5 may be Grand Prix and the remainder must be Accelerating Stars or Starting Line. If there are 14 performers, the decimal point is dropped, therefore permitting only 4 Grand Prix performers in that routine.
- **Additional Notes on Level Placement:** No Level changes will be made at the Door. No Grand Prix level performer is allowed to perform in any Starting Line routines.

PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS

Dance categories are limited to the number of acro/gymnastics tricks in a particular routine. The only categories that have no limitations on acro/gymnastic tricks are as follows: open, acro/gymnastics and Production Line division. Unless otherwise stated below no more the 3 acro/gymnastic tricks are allowed in dance categories. An acro/gymnastic trick is considered anything in which a performers feet leave the floor and invert over the performers' head while their hands have left the floor, except for aerials. For example, roundoffs, handsprings, tucks, pikes, layouts, and fulls. A tumbling pass combining any of these tricks are considered 1 acro/gymnastic trick. Lifts involving multiple performers are NOT considered acro/gymnastic tricks.

- **Acro/Gymnastics:** A routine that contains primarily gymnastic tricks, including, but not limited to walkover, front/back limbers, handstands, headstands, cartwheels, etc. There should be a blend of gymnastics and dance together.
- **Ballet:** A routine consisting of classical steps & formal ballet technique. Ballet shoes must be worn. No Pointe Shoes in this category. No acro/gymnastics tricks are permissible.
- **Ballroom:** A routine utilizing Standard or Latin Ballroom technique and must be performed with ballroom heels or ballroom shoes only.
- **Baton:** Routine using baton(s) and baton technique. These routines will be judged on Baton technique, dance technique, and choreography.
- **Character:** A routine that portrays a character that is easily recognizable from a movie, music video, pop culture, history, etc.
- **Cheerleading:** A routine that consists of cheerleading technique as well as a combination of strong, sharp movements, vocal cheering and dance. May contain up to 50% acro/gymnastics.
- **Clogging:** A routine which uses clogging technique and performers are in clogging shoes.
- **Contemporary:** A routine that combines ballet technique, lyrical, and modern movements in a unique way.
- **Folkloric:** Routine incorporating ethnic styles of dance and techniques such as Traditional Asian dances, Hawaiian, Spanish Flamenco, etc.
- **Hip Hop:** A dance that consists of the latest street dance style, as seen in current pop culture and musical artist tours and performances.
- **Jazz:** A routine that utilizes traditional jazz techniques such as pirouettes, isolations, leaps, etc.
- **Lyrical:** A routine that is performed to the lyrics or mood of the music. Movements typically display balance, extension, and control to slower rhythms.
- **Modern:** A routine containing an interpretive style of dance using modern techniques, such as Graham, Ailey, Horton, and other techniques, just to name a few.
- **Musical Theater:** A routine performed to the music of a Broadway or Movie musical. A routine that incorporates characters associated with a known Broadway or Movie musical.
- **Open:** A routine that does not fit into a specific category or a combination of any of the other performance categories; (No Pointe or Vocals permitted)
- **Pointe (Grand Prix Level Only):** A routine that consists of ballet/pointe/toe technique. Pointe shoes must be worn.
- **Pom Pon:** A routine combining dance with the use of pom pons for at least 75% of the routine. Formations and staging are highly considered in these performances.
- **Song and Dance:** A routine that combines any listed category of dancing and singing. Both genres are expected to be present in this routine. Judging will be based on both singing and dancing. Lead vocals may not be lip synched and may have back up vocal accompaniment only. Two handheld, wireless microphones will be provided. No personal/studio microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted.
- **Tap:** A routine utilizing rhythm and tap technique. No recorded tap sounds can be present in the music. Must be performed with tap shoes only.
- **Vocal:** A performance of any type of vocal only presentation. Accompaniment must be pre-recorded. (No lead vocals may be recorded). Two handheld, wireless microphones

will be provided. No personal/studio microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted to be hooked into the sound system. All Vocals will default to the Grand Prix level.

TITLE COMPETITION

At every regional event, a Title competition will be incorporated into our solo division. Any performer in our Accelerating Star Level or our Grand Prix Level who wishes to have their routine judged for Title should check the appropriate box while registering their solo online, or they may register at the door at least one hour prior to their performance. You may enter a maximum of 3 solos for Title. All entries registered for Title will be judged during the performance of their solo routine.

The Title Competition is judged on showmanship, style and overall presentation of their performance score. A competitor can receive a total score of 10 points maximum from each judge.

Title Age Divisions are as follows:

- Mini Miss Driven - Mini Mr. Driven (Ages 5 & under)
- Petite Miss Driven - Little Mr. Driven (Ages 6-8)
- Junior Miss Driven - Junior Mr. Driven (Ages 9-11)
- Teen Miss Driven - Teen Mr. Driven (Ages 12-14)
- Miss Driven - Mr. Driven (Ages 15-19)

Any Regional Title Champion may not compete the same routine for Title, at another Regional Event. However, they may compete at another regional event in the same year with a different routine.

To compete in the Title competition, you must be registered as an Accelerating Star or Grand Prix level performer.

ADJUDICATION OF AWARDS

- **Point System:** Routines will be measured against a predetermined point scale and will be awarded based on our **medal** scoring system; with **Legendary** being the highest placement in the **Grand Prix** Level and with **Platinum** being the highest medal you can receive in the Accelerating Star, Starting Line and Breaking Boundaries Levels.
- **Divisional 1st Place Awards:** If there are 2 or more routines in a category, a first place award will be presented to the routine with the highest point score. Each Solo and Duet/Trio performers that win their category will receive an award.

<u>Grand Prix</u>	<u>Accelerating Stars</u>	<u>Starting Line</u>	<u>Breaking Boundaries</u>
Legendary: 295-300	Legendary: (Not Eligible)	Legendary: (Not Eligible)	Legendary: (Not Eligible)
Platinum: 290-294.9	Platinum: 285-300	Platinum: 280-300	Platinum: 280-300
Elite Gold: 285-289.9	Elite Gold: 280-284.9	Elite Gold: 275-279.9	Elite Gold: 275-279.9
Gold: 280-284.9	Gold: 275-279.9	Gold: 270-274.9	Gold: 270-274.9
Elite Silver: 275-279.9	Elite Silver: 270-274.9	Elite Silver: 265-269.9	Elite Silver: 265-269.9
Silver: 270-274.9	Silver: 265-269.9	Silver: 260-264.9	Silver: 260-264.9
Bronze: 265-269.9	Bronze: 260-264.9	Bronze: 255-259.9	Bronze: 255-259.9

- **Grand Prix Level:** All Solos, Duets/Trios, Small Groups, Large Groups, Lines & Production Lines, in each age division, are eligible for High Score Awards. Our **Grand Prix Level** will receive '**Driven Dollars**' for first place overall. The amount will be based on the total number of entries at the particular event. See chart below:

<u>Routine Size</u>	<u>(1 – 350 entries)</u>	<u>(351 – 500 entries)</u>	<u>(501 entries & up)</u>
Solo	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$200.00
Duet/Trio	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
Small & Large Groups	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
Line & Production Lines	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$350.00

- **Starting Line, Accelerating Stars, and Breaking Boundaries levels:** All routines, in each age division and level will be eligible for High Score Awards. Special awards will be presented for receiving the highest score.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Industry Icon Award: 2 Industry Icon Awards per show will be awarded. This will be given to the highest scoring group in the 11 & under and 12 & over combined divisions “DRIVEN DOLLARS” are awarded based on the number of routines per show.

- 1 – 350 entries - \$300
- 351 - 500 entries - \$400
- 501 - & up - \$500
- **Driven Performance of the Week:** The highest group score of each regional competition will be announced on our IG every Wednesday. We will then have a social media vote to find out our
- **Driven Performance of the Year:** The winning studio will then receive a special gift.
- **Choreography Award:** In both 11 & Under and 12 & Over age divisions a Choreography Award will be presented to the choreographer/studio of select groups, lines, or productions.
- **Entertainment Award:** In both 11 & Under and 12 & Over age divisions an Entertainment Award will be presented to select groups, lines, or productions.
- **The Right Track Award:** In both 11 & Under and 12 & Over age divisions a Right Track Award will be presented to the studio that displays great sportsmanship, spirit and attitude during the competition.
- **Tap & Hip-Hop Excellence Awards:** In both 11 & Under and 12 & Over age divisions an Excellence Awards will be presented to the most outstanding Tap & Hip – Hop group routines.
- **Driven Dancers of the Week:** This award will be presented to one Judge’s selected soloist for each regional. This will be announced on social media following the event. At the end of the season, our judging panels will confer and choose 5 performers as our finalists. A social media vote will determine the **Driven Dancer of the Year**. This performer will then be featured in our 2026 Program as well as additional prizes.
- **Photogenic Award:** This award will be presented to the Top 3 scores in the 11 & under and 12 & over Age Divisions. (Note: Contestants may only place once in the Top 3). Photos will be returned to the contestants after the awards ceremony. Driven Talent Competition is not responsible for any pictures which are not retrieved by the studio/contestant at the venue. We will not mail photos.
- **Costume Award:** This award will be presented to the Top 3 scores in the 11 & under and 12 & over Age Divisions. who receive the highest scores based on originality, design, overall impression, etc. There are 4 divisions, Solos (11 & under and 12 & over) and Group Costume – Duet/ Trio, Groups, Lines all combined (11 & under and 12 & over) If you wish to enter the costume division, please check the appropriate box when you register that routine online. All entries in the costume contest will be judged during the performance of their routine. There will not be a special presentation of costume contestants. Make sure to enter the costume competition at least a 1/2 hour prior to your performance. There is a fee to enter your routine in our Costume Contest.
- **Outstanding Vocalist Award:** This award will be presented to the vocalist with the highest score in the 11 & under and the 12 & over Divisions.

- **Solo Awards:** High Score Awards will be presented to the Top 10 soloists in each age division. Driven Talent Competition reserves the right to announce more finalists. (The same contestant may not place more than once for high score in the solo division.)
- **Title Awards:** Title Awards will be presented to the male and female Title Champions, 1st and 2nd Runners up in each age division. The same contestant may not place more than once. (Contestants running for title will NOT be excluded from the High Score Awards)
- **Duet/Trio Awards:** High Score Awards will be presented to the Top 10 scoring duet/trios in each age division. (The same duet/trio may not place more than once for high score in the duet/trio division. There must be a 50% difference in performers to be in the same age group of the same category.) Driven Talent Competition reserves the right to announce more finalists.
- **Group/Line Awards:** High Score Awards will be presented to the Top 10 scoring Small Groups, Large Groups, Lines, and Productions Lines in each age division. Driven Talent Competition reserves the right to announce more finalists.

MUSIC

Any music which contains profanity, racial slurs, or any other inappropriate lyrics will result in an Automatic Point Deduction.

- **Music Uploads:** Driven Talent Competition uses an electronic music file upload system. Music will be uploaded through our registration system and must be done at least 5 days prior to the competition.
- **Flash Drives:** If you are unable to upload your music file you may provide a Flash Drive. These must be labeled with your studio name. Each routine must be labeled with the correct entry number and routine name title in the following format: “452 – Yeah”
- Please make sure to bring a backup of all music.

PROPS

Any props that are placed onstage are allotted a maximum of 2 minutes to build and remove props.

- Props that take longer than 2 minutes will need to pay for extended time
 - \$25.00 - up to 3 min
 - \$50.00 – anything over 4 min
- Storing of props in the wings during the show is not permitted.
- Please note, props should be loaded in and out of the competition venue on the same day they are used.
- All props must be fire – proofed
- Any item left on the stage (props, flower petals, paper, leaves, etc.) must be cleaned up by the studio in an efficient and timely manner. Failure to do so may result in removal from overall high scores.
- No dangerous props may be used on stage (such as fire, swords or knives). Live animals are also prohibited on stage.
- Liquids, paints, powders, chalk & glitter are **prohibited** from coming in contact with the Marley floor. If any of these are utilized and transfer from the body to the surface of the

Marley floor, it must be cleaned up immediately and completely by the studio. This may result in disqualification or removal from overall high scores.

- Please alert the backstage manager of any props that will be used before your performance time.
- No Performer should kneel, stand, or lie down above 8 feet from the stage level floor
- No Special stage or house lighting will be provided or changed for any performance.

CHECKING IN BACKSTAGE

Teachers should check in performers backstage on a timely basis. Please pre check in at least 1 hour prior to their first performance to inform us the studio is here. Teachers are permitted to remain backstage for an appropriate amount of time to prepare their performers and watch their performance. Backstage areas need to remain clear of performers, parents, and teachers and stay organized all other times. Any Studio that delays the show because they are rehearsing will have points deducted from their total score.

INCOMPLETE ROUTINES

Any **solo** routine that is not completed the first time, and is attempted a second time may result in a point deduction.

SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Driven Talent Competition is an open event to the general public. No food, drinks or smoking is allowed in the competition performance area or inside of the contracted venue. Good sportsmanship is a key ingredient to any healthy competitive environment. All Performers, Studio Owners, Teachers, and Spectators are required to be respectful and display amazing sportsmanship throughout the course of the competition. Failure to comply could result in your removal from the competition.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All contestants grant permission to Driven Talent Competition, LLC. to use their photographs and/or videos or to appear on local and/or national television to promote its competitions.

- **Alcohol and tobacco are not permitted** at any event that is hosted at a school property. **Smoking is not permitted** in any of our venues.
- Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all times. Failure to display proper decorum could result in immediate disqualification and removal from the competition venue.
- Driven Talent Competition and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury or property loss sustained by contestants, teachers, or spectators while attending any area of the venue.
- Competing performers take certain inherent risks when involved in any physical activity. Participation in this competition indicates the acceptance of such risks by the

performers and their guardians. Upon registration to any Driven Talent Competition event, it is agreed that participants will not hold, Driven Talent Competition, LLC., its directors or employees responsible for injuries that occur or illnesses that may be contracted during the competition event. Studio Owners/Directors agree to adhere to the Release of Liability Clause which will be completed during the registration process.

- A panel of well-qualified judges will judge contestants, and all decisions of the judges will be accepted as final.
- **Videotaping and photography is strictly prohibited** (disqualification could result). If anyone is found videoing or taking pictures in the competition auditorium, Driven Talent Competition reserves the right to take the video tape or delete the video footage. Teachers, please inform your contestants, studio parents, and representatives of this rule.
- A protest may only be initiated by a Studio Director/ Teacher. LEVELS may not be protested as this is an opinion. Protests must be signed and submitted in writing to the director of the show within 30 minutes of the incident involved. Protests may not be submitted after an awards ceremony.
- Driven Talent Competition, LLC Rules will be evaluated and enforced on an individual basis, based on what is best for all parties involved.