

Plymouth Dance Festival Rules 2026

Festival Dates: July 18th to July 26th

Age is as of September 1st 2025

1.General Rules

- A.** The festival is open to students under 18 years on 1st September 2025. Only Amateurs may enter this festival. Entries will open on **April 20th**. We will shut entries at 1400 or on May 15th 2026 whichever is reached first, **Priority will be given to students who live and dance school is within Devon and Cornwall. If you are outside this area please do Not put your entry in until **21st April 2026****
- B.** Students who have trained or are training at a vocational school may not enter any Novice class. These students must have written permission from their dance school/ College if they are still at that school to enter open classes
- C.** You may only enter and dance in your own age group. A competitor cannot appear more than twice in a duet, Trio or Quad class. **Or 2 times in a group class.** No competitor may present more than one dance in any solo section, unless asked by the adjudicator, or invited to perform at the championship*. **One school may only enter 2 dances in a group section.**
- D.** Pointe work must not be performed by anyone under aged 13 years on 1st September 2025 or in any novice class.
- E.** Costumes & belongings left anywhere on the festival campus are the sole responsibility of the entrant.
- F.** A performer not ready to dance in the order of the programme may be disqualified. All performers should be ready to dance 30 minutes ahead of the scheduled section time.
- G.** We are an inclusive festival and welcome performers with additional needs. Notification of any adaptations required must be stated at entry for the Performance class by email to the Dance secretary. We have a Non-competitive class for Dancers with additional needs. The named dancer may not enter in other sections of the festival but if other dancers are required to support this dancer, they may enter other classes. The named dancer only will be presented with a rosette, certificate and report. No mark will be given.
- H.** If there are less than 3 competitors entered in a class the festival may join this class with the closest age group. Please remember this if you are entering multiple age groups in the duets, trios & Quads as you will still be limited to 2 items performed.
- J.** We expect anyone attending The City of Plymouth Dance Festival to be polite and respectful to one another. Failure to do this may result in the offender being disqualified and asked to leave the festival.
- K.** Any complaint must be made in writing on the day the problem has arisen.

L. Please ensure your Dance teacher has approved the sections you are entering.

2. Novice section:-

You cannot dance in a novice section if you have previously won a section in the same Genre at any BIFF dance festival.

You cannot dance in the Novice section and the open section in the same genre.

You cannot dance in a Novice section if you have qualified for the All England regional finals or finals in the same Genre.

Pointe work is not permissible in any novice section.

All novice dances must be under less than 1 min 30seconds. Please also read rule 1.

3. Copyright

It is the entrants responsibility to ensure that there are no copyright infringements with music choice or choreography of Dance.

4. Group Dances

Each School may enter up to 2 dances in each group class but they must have a different permutation of competitors in each class.

5. Stage & Side of Stage

A teacher may accompany their student side stage whatever the age of the competitor, or if the entrant is under 8 years a representative may accompany the entrant when their teacher is unavailable, they must leave the area after their student's performance has ended. This person must be over the age of 18. Another competitor may help setting props but then must leave the side stage area immediately.

Stage rehearsals must be booked. You will find the booking sheet in the holding room. They are for Groups only & the rehearsal must be run by the group's teacher.

6. Timings

Time limits are the maximum allowed and must be observed. All dances will be timed and monitored and marks will be deducted if timings are exceeded.

Material performed at the festival must be age appropriate.

Time limits

	Ballet, Tap, Modern Lyrical, Narrative	Musical Theatre
10 years & under	1 min 30sec	1 min 30
11 years & Over	2 mins	2 mins
Duets,	2 mins 30sec	3 mins
Trios & Quads	2mins 30sec	3 mins

Groups

4 mins

4 mins

All Novice classes must be under 1minute 30 seconds

7. Music

We will be uploading music. You must have this uploaded by June 1st. You must bring a back-up on a Memory stick.

The organisers cannot accept responsibility for incorrect playing of any music except in the event of equipment failure.

The musical accompaniment, both as to choice and performance, will be taken into consideration during adjudication. As will the subject matter as to whether it is suitable for the age of the performer.

No vocal introduction, or backing, is allowed for Song & Dance entries.

A maximum of 20 words is allowed to introduce Character Dances.

No backing vocals on a Song & Dance/ Musical Theatre backing track.

8. Props

All large props should be brought backstage at the start of the festival day and be removed by the end of the day. Please do not bring props before the day that they are required as they may cause a hazard and will be removed. Please note that no prop should weigh more than 10kg. No prop should make any mess on stage. The Committee reserves the right to refuse props that do not comply with these requirements. [Please use the guidance of a single chair being the biggest prop you can use.](#)

9. Certificates & Adjudication

Certificates & Adjudication sheets will be available shortly after your section has ended. They will be outside the committee room which is on the left as you leave the building via the main entrance. All reports & certificates must be collected by the end of the festival, if you cannot do this, please supply a self-addressed envelope slightly larger than A4 with the correct postage, before the festival ends. Any unclaimed certificates at the end of the last day will be destroyed. They are normally ready for collection within 30mins of the end of the class.

10. Awards

Medals are awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd places. In group dances, [one 1st 2nd & 3rd place medals](#) will be awarded, you may purchase medals for the rest of the placed groups.

11. Dancing out of class

This will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, if the committee & adjudicator agrees to it. Permission will not be granted for a clash with another activity or Festival.

12. Re-dance

Other than baby classes a competitor may only dance again at the specific request of the adjudicator or a malfunction of the Music equipment.

13. New Marking scheme

- Developing
A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency & artistry
- Progressing
A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment
- Merit
A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability
- Commended
A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills
- Honours
An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality
- Outstanding
An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality
- Exceptional
A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality



*14. Championship classes

Those placed 1st & 2nd in the open Ballet, tap, & [Song& Dance](#), will progress to the championship. In modern & Lyrical Modern those placed 1st will progress to the championship.

To allow planning for the championship, it would be helpful if confirmation of Championship fee could be paid as soon as possible after invitation. No adjudication sheets will be written for these classes.

[Junior Championship 9 - 12 years](#)

[Senior Championship 13 - 18years](#)

15 *Solo Ballet variations for each age group

Must perform one of the following:-

10& Under

- Paquita 4th variation
- Sleeping beauty fairy of the song Birds variation

11&12 years

- Don Quixote 3rd act Kitri variation
- Paquita 2nd Variation

13&14 years

- Nutcracker sugar plum variation
- La corsaire Odalisque 3rd variation

15&16 years

- La fille mal gardee 2nd act lise variation
- Sleeping Beauty 3rd act Aurora variation

17years

- Diana and Acteon Diana variation
- Esmeralda Tambourine variation

Variation may be simplified to suit dancer. 13 years and under must not be en pointe.

16. Audience & competitors

Children must be supervised by an adult (over the age of 18 years) at all times. The child must know the name of that person. Our venue is open to other groups both front and backstage.

Photography, filming, video or tape recording, and the use of mobile phones during any performance are prohibited

Communication with the Adjudicators concerning any matters relating to the Competition by competitors, teachers or other interested parties prior to or during the Competition is strictly prohibited.

While we are happy for schools, parents and supporters to cheer group performances as long as all groups are supported equally, encouragement is always welcome. However, there should be NO cheering during solos, duet, trios and quartets, but polite clapping is encouraged, supporting every competitor equally.

17. Entry Fees

Solo (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Minutes).....	£7
Solo (2 mins).....	£7.50
Duet	£11
Quads & Trio.....	£14

Groups.....£16

Championship Entry £7

18. Spectator tickets

Single session.....£6.50 Concessions.....£5

Day ticket.....£13 Concessions.....£10

Dance Festival ticket.....£60 Concessions.....£40

19. Championship Classes Ticket is included in your weekly ticket.
