



USASF Dance Sanctioning Standards 2023-2024

All USASF member competition event producers who produce dance competitions must meet the following **minimum** standards for a competition, which includes All Star dance divisions and categories, to be sanctioned. The USASF Dance Sanctioning Compliance Committee will oversee all reported sanctioning non-compliance violations.

1. General Event Standards:
 - a. A properly equipped EMT or athletic trainer is present and ready to handle medical emergencies.
 - b. A minimum of \$1,000,000 (Aggregate) in general liability insurance coverage.
 - c. USASF dance rules, guidelines and policies must be followed and enforced.
 - d. Only divisions and categories from the approved USASF Divisions and Categories Guidelines may be sanctioned by the USASF.
 - e. Have at least one current season USASF Certified Dance Legality Official onsite at the Dance Worlds qualifying event.
 - f. Team performance will not be scheduled earlier than 7:00am and perform no later than 11:00pm.
 - g. Have a documented plan on-site in competition venues that outlines how to handle emergency situations. Event management staff must review the plan before producing an event. By signing the annual USASF Company Member Agreement, event producers will affirm such a plan is in place.
 - h. Make best efforts to follow the USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at USASF Sanctioned Competitions (below).
 - i. All music played at sanctioned competitions must comply with applicable copyright law.
 - j. All full-time employees, working USASF Sanctioned Events, will have background checks through the USASF member database or an external process with equivalent standards.
 - k. Communicate dressing area details to registered programs/teams one week prior to the competition. Providing PUBLIC bathrooms as the only changing area is not recommended.
2. Warm-Up Area Standards:
 - a. Provide warm-up room space and time with best efforts to provide the same size and type of floor as the performance floor.
 - b. Provide information regarding warm-up room surface at the time of registration.
 - c. Bare concrete, grass, and/or uneven surfaces are not allowed.
 - d. If warm-up areas are outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
 - e. Provide a method of cleaning warm-up area surfaces of bodily fluids, dust and debris from prior performances.
 - f. Consider providing additional stretching areas for teams to utilize for skills and routine run-throughs before using the warm-up area.
3. Performance Area Standards:
 - a. Offer Industry Recommended Performance Floor: A regulation floor that includes a minimum of a 42" X 42" Marley, Roscoe, Harlequin (or similar) floor over a floating wood floor or sport court. It may be laid from front to back (like Worlds) or side to side put together with gaffer's tape or equivalent.
 1. Marley and similar floors all range in strip/panel size. Teams should check with the Event Producer for specifics being offered at their events.



2. The Dance Worlds performance floor surface will be a Marley floor. There will be a center line from the front of the floor to the back.
 - b. Bare concrete, grass, and/or uneven surfaces are not allowed.
 - c. An unobstructed ceiling height of 15 feet over the performance floor must be provided.
 - d. If performance areas are outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
 - e. Provide a method of cleaning performance area surfaces of bodily fluids, dust and debris from prior performances.
4. Disclosures
 - a. Any minimum standards that are not met in the Warm-Up and/or Performance Area must be disclosed to all competitors no later than at the point of registration (i.e. prior to payment received).

GOLD STAR COMPETITIONS MINIMUM STANDARDS:

Gold Star Competitions are those that exceed the USASF Dance Minimum Sanctioning Standards.

1. Performance Area Standards:
 - a. Are the same as the USASF Dance Minimum Sanctioning Standards.
 - b. Notice of Disclosure (item 4) is not applicable.
 2. Dance Panel Judging Standards:
 - a. At least one USASF Dance Certified Legality Official on panel
 - b. At least two scoring judges with a minimum of 2 years of dance adjudication experience on the scoring panel.
- OR
- c. At least one scoring judge who has previously been an adjudicator for The Dance Worlds.
 - d. Notice of Disclosure (item 4) not applicable.

Event producers accepted for USASF membership after June 1, 2009, must be in business successfully conducting competitions for 3 years before they will be approved to hold USASF Sanctioned Competitions. Documentation and/or proof of holding legitimate and safe events may be requested by the USASF before approval. A competition will be sanctioned only if the management or executive staff of the event producer conducting the event has at least three years experience conducting competitions. USASF Member Event Producers with less than 3 years experience may communicate they are USASF members "following" the USASF Dance Event Sanctioning Standards but will be under review by the USASF through the completion of the 3rd year of experience. They may only use the words "USASF Provisionally Sanctioned Competition" until their third year of conducting events is complete and the events they wish to have sanctioned meet all other sanctioning criteria.

USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at Sanctioned Competitions:

- Conduct judges meeting/orientation/training before the start of the competition
- Have a Legality Official serve their role separate from panel judges (not serving both roles)
- Consider having one Legality Official per panel
- 5-minute minimum (6 min recommended) to watch and score routines
- Video playback capability for Legality Officials
- Follow the 'USASF Routine Interruption Due To Injury' protocol for all sanctioned events. Currently, this is a recommendation to all event producers. The protocol is to protect everyone's interest, with the focus on the injured athlete during an event (https://usasfmain.s3.amazonaws.com/Rules/USASF_Routine_Interruption_Guidelines.p



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 - Scheduled meal and restroom breaks for judges
 - o Length of break should be considerate of distance/accessibility to restrooms and food. If a 6-min break is scheduled on paper and the restroom is a 3-4 min walk, a 6-min break may not be long enough. Similarly, if food is a 20 min walk and considering long lines with competition attendees, dinner cannot be 30 min unless a staff member is assigned to go buy food with the judge's money. EPs should be mindful that if team performance is delayed by a costume change, music failure, etc., a bio break for judges is still necessary and should not be routinely skipped, nor a mealtime, in order to 'make up time' lost in the schedule.
- Access to water and/or refreshments while judging
 - o If no water and/or refreshments are provided, EPs should communicate the plan and or options available to the judges.