



exercise
move
dance

SCHOOL GAMES

Dance

Level 2 Competition toolkit



Welcome to the Level 2 Dance Competition Toolkit

Here you will find:

- Information on how to deliver your own dance competition.
- Guidance on resources you may need.
- Judging criteria for your competition.
- A judges score calculator including judging cards and comments guidance.

This toolkit is designed to help you, the teacher, or any young leader to deliver a high quality dance competition in your school where any dance style can be performed.

So let's get started

What do you need to deliver your own dance competition?

- a) Entry process
- b) Venue
- c) Volunteers
- d) Judges
- e) Scoring system
- f) Running a virtual competition

A) Entry process

- Dance teams should express their interest to enter the Level 2 competition to their SGO/competition organiser.
- Dance teams need to submit their music in MP3/4 format to the competition organisers well in advance along with their Team Declaration Form.
- Set a deadline for collecting both the declaration forms and music to give you enough time to organise this before the competition.
- The SGO/competition organiser should produce a running order/schedule so the teams, judges and volunteers are aware of the order of the performances either before the competition or when they arrive at the competition.



B) Venue

- A sports hall, school hall or dance studio is more than adequate for this competition. These spaces can also be used at the Level 1 and Level 3 competitions (a stage or theatre is not necessary to run the competition).
- It is not necessary to provide lighting or costumes for the competition.
- Ensure the performance area dimensions are the same at Level 2 as they are at Level 3.

C) Volunteers

A basic plan of how many volunteers or young leaders you will need to run your competition:

ROLE	DESCRIPTION	HOW MANY PEOPLE?
Competition organiser	Coordinates the competition	1
Scorers	It is helpful to have two people to do this role. One to read out the scores and the other to input the scores into the computer	2
Judges	People to judge the competition performances using the judges support pack	3
Stage manager	Someone to coordinate groups on and off the stage/performance area	1
Music coordinator	Someone to press play and stop on the music and get the next track ready	1

Other roles that could be helpful, but not essential:

- Host/MC to make announcements
- Group coordinators to collect groups for their performance
- A runner to pass score sheets between the judges and scoring tables
- Registration/Admin support to collect registration forms and hand out programmes/schedules

D) Judges

All competitions should have THREE judges.

Judges can be local community dance teachers, employees of local dance/performing art organisations, college teachers or young leaders and peers from your school. These are some ideas, feel free to come up with your own.



If you would like to find a professional judge to support your competition you can find some helpful guidance in the section below 'Sourcing a Judge'.

How does the judging work?

- Each judge will score on 2 categories.
- This means that 2 scores will be created for each category.
- The 2 scores will then be averaged to create a final category score.
- All 3 judges will give a category 4 Overall Impact score which will then be averaged.

Each judge will judge the following categories:

- Judge 1 – Categories 1,2,4
- Judge 2 – Categories 2,3,4
- Judge 3 – Categories 1,3,4

Hint: When assigning judges as 1, 2 and 3, first think about the categories they will be scoring as this may effect who you assign to each role.

Judging categories:

Category 1	Concept (10 marks)	Soundtrack (5 marks)
Category 2	Choreography (20 marks)	Floor use (15 marks)
Category 3	Performance Skill (20 marks)	
Category 4	Overall impact (30 marks)	

E) Scoring system

- A scoring spreadsheet is provided in this toolkit and can be used to calculate scores. This spreadsheet is already set up to automatically calculate results. All you have to do is enter the scores in the relevant box.
- You will need to assign a person to be responsible for scoring at the competition. It is also useful to have a second person to support and offer a secondary check.



F) Running a virtual competition

- The entry process for a virtual competition should be the same as a physical one.
- Team declaration sheets (Appendix A) should still be provided along with their entry.
- Teams can submit videos via DVD, YouTube link or video file. If you have restrictions, please let the schools know.
- It is important to note that if choosing to run a virtual competition, that all schools are given the same deadline to submit footage.
- When judging, all video footage needs to be judged together.
- ALL entries have to be virtual, or physical. There cannot be a mixture of the two.

JUDGING CRITERIA

		Things to consider		Things to consider
CATEGORY 1	Concept (10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality • Exploration of a theme • Innovation 	Soundtrack (5 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness to overall theme • Ability to create or enhance mood and atmosphere • Original and creative choices
CATEGORY 2	Choreography (20 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriateness to theme • Innovation and originality • Composition of dance movement (including degree of difficulty) • Integration of movement and soundtrack • Use of choreographic elements such as rounds, cannons, solo performances, unison etc. 	Floor use (15 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of stage area • Entrances and exits • Levels • Spatial awareness
CATEGORY 3	Performance Skill (20 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus and projection • Execution of choreography • Skills such as mime and gesture • Synchronisation (if appropriate) • Commitment to performance 		



CATEGORY 4	Overall impact (30 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective use of all elements • Total performance impact • Overall impact of theme
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JUDGES SCORING GUIDELINES

1 – 10 point selection	1 – 20 point selection	1 – 30 point selection		
1 - 2	1 – 4	1 - 6	=	Needs work
3 - 4	5 – 8	7 – 12	=	Fair
5 - 6	9 – 12	13 – 18	=	Good
7 – 8	13 – 16	19 – 24	=	Very good
9 - 10	17 - 20	25 - 30	=	Excellent

Scoring example:

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Calculation	Score
Category 1					
Concept	5		6	$(5 + 6)/2$	5.5
Soundtrack	6		7	$(6 + 7)/2$	6.5
Category 2					
Choreography	15	13		$(15 + 13)/2$	14
Floor Use	8	9		$(8 + 9)/2$	8.5
Category 3					
Performance Skill		23	25	$(23 + 25)/2$	24
Category 4					
Overall Impact	20	23	25	$(20 + 23 + 25)/3$	22.7
				Final Score	81.2



JUDGES FEEDBACK

The judges provide two types of feedback to the teams:

- Each judge will be given the opportunity to comment verbally during the competition. It is up to you to decide how you want to structure this, for example you could ask judges to feedback after every three performances.
- The judging sheets provide an area for the judges to write positive as well as constructive comments about the overall performance. You could decide to pass these onto each team after the competition.

JUDGING HINTS

- Judges should not give standing ovations.
- Judges should not use phrases like "You're the best I've seen tonight", "top marks" or "full marks".
- Judges should be seen to be acting fairly to all acts.
- Judges need to act uniformly, i.e., use words which highlight the strengths of the act and praise it where appropriate (try not to use any negative comments during the verbal public feedback, save constructive criticism for the feedback sheets).
- Schools may wish to see the judge's comments after the competition. Please ensure that comments are presentable and appropriate.
- All teams should be marked in a fair and inclusive way.
- Judges should mark each criteria element individually.
- Judges should be prepared to say why they gave that mark.
- Personal likes and dislikes (e.g. dance styles, song choices, etc.) should not influence marks.

COMMENT SUGGESTIONS

These are very rough ideas for comments, which would need further expansion, but may give you some ideas.

- Congratulations on an enthusiastic presentation.
- I was impressed by your lively/exuberant performance.
- You presented an interesting interpretation of the music.
- You successfully linked the music to the theme.
- The choreography complemented your choice of music.
- I commend you on the staging.
- You used the area effectively to bring all groups in.
- You used the props well to heighten the mood of your performance.
- The theme had a dramatic impact on me.
- The outstanding feature was the relevance of the theme to young people.



SOURCING A JUDGE

A trained or qualified judge is not essential to run your competition. You could use a PE teacher, a local dance teacher or even an older pupil/ FE student to judge your competition. As long as the adjudicator is independent from the groups who are dancing.

Dance Leaders and Dance Young Ambassadors could also be used for this role as long as they do not score groups they have previously taught and receive a briefing from the competition organiser to ensure that they understand the criteria.

A judge can be provided for your event by the UDO Academy, a member organisation of EMDP. If you do have a small budget and want to make the competition an even bigger spectacle you could source a qualified judge from the UDO Academy. There are different levels of judges' dependant on their qualification level and "celebrity CV". The day rate for a judge is usually between £150 and £220.

JUDGES TRAINING

Judges training is not essential but is available through the UDO Academy, a member organisation of EMDP.

UDO judges training:

The training course lasts approximately four hours and covers all basic aspects of judging dance competitions. Learning outcomes include; fair and consistent judging, judging against criteria, and identifying dance moves and styles. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice scoring performances under the leadership of a professional judge.

This training course is suitable for all levels of experience; the content will be catered to your current knowledge and needs. For further information and to book onto a course contact hello@udoacademy.com

Have any questions or queries?

Contact schools@emdp.org