

### **Soloists Divisions/Placement Levels**

As we branch out doing more competitions with more soloists with various experiences, and as the various competitions get more levels, it is important that you (as an older dancer or as the parent of a younger dancer) and the directors understand and agree on their division/placement levels at the competitions. I want Expressions Dance Academy to be regarded as an honest studio that competes with integrity, which is why I take the time to follow up on the rules each year and make sure dancers are placed accordingly. I am going to list below the rules as taken from their websites on the different dance competitions levels. I will then state what I believe your dancer's solo(s) should fall under, and why. If you believe it is inaccurate, please let me know. This is not meant to be confrontational. I only want what is best for your dancer. If you feel they should be switched, please let me know why and I will get it resolved. Keep in mind the following items:

1. All competitions allow routines to "bump up" meaning that if your dancer were to fit all the requirements for the lowest level, but you wanted them to compete at a higher level, that is perfectly legal. If you/your dancer want to do this, please let me know.
2. All competitions require that any soloist that wants to be considered for any title competition MUST be placed in the highest category. As you read below I am not assuming that anyone wants to do title, so if your dancer does want to do title, let me know, but then be aware they will need to be bumped up to the highest level. You may always ask any of your teachers if you want your dancer to compete for title, but almost always we will say "Yes". We think it is good experience for the dancer, but we also feel the dancer themselves must be ready to put themselves out on the line like that, and that is a decision that is up to the dancer.
3. If your dancer has two solos, BOTH solos must fall into the same placement level. Even if your dancers has many experience in one style, and it is their first year in the other, they must both fall in the same level, and competitions will tell you that you must pick the higher level.
4. The level that is decided for your dancer's solo does not determine the level that the studio decides for them for group dances. I feel that solos are a completely different ballgame than group dances. Therefore I may consider your dancer a second or third level dancer, but if this is their first year doing a solo, I understand the need to be in the lowest category for a year or two. The directors of the studio will also determine what level all duos, trios, and groups are placed in. The only exception is if a duo or trio wishes to compete at the highest level in attempt to win awards available only to the highest level – such as cash prizes, ability to be in a competitions showcase, etc. If that is the case, please let Miss Kelly know.
5. The studio will not share with you other soloists levels. Parents can discuss amongst themselves if they desire, but the studio will not. They will become public knowledge when the schedules are posted, but I do not want to create rivalry between our own dancers. It is inevitable that some soloists will compete against each other, and I know it's hard to think this way, but a win for any dancer of Expressions Dance Academy is a win for all the dancers of Expressions Dance Academy.
6. Lastly, we will not be dishonest about dancers, but we cannot control other dance studio's dishonesty. Also keep in mind that with the new technology age, all competitions and even studios have records of previous entries/awards. I would hate for a judge to notice a dancer that they remember having danced for more years than they claim, because this certain judge remembers them from years past, and decides to mark them down or think negatively of our studio because of it.

I would like to hear back from you either way, even if you completely agree with what we have suggested. However if I don't hear back from you by the end of November, I will assume you do agree with me and put them in the listed category. Feel free to look at the websites if you want additional information.

## Creation Dance Championships

Competition Levels	Requirements
Novice	Beginner Level Dancers (0-2 years total training experience)
Competitive	Intermediate Level Dancers (2-4 years total training experience)
Elite	Advanced Level Dancers (Over 4 years total training experience)

### Power of Dance

**Shining Star** Division is for dancers who take 3 or fewer hours of dance per week and have limited or no competition experience. A Shining Star dancer may compete in no more than one solo and five group dances. (NO Super Star dancers may compete in group dances in this division. The presence of even one Super Star dancer will cause a Shining Star entry to automatically be bumped up to All Star.)

**All Star** is for dancers who take between 3 and 5 hours of dance per week. A dancer in this division may compete in no more than two solos and no more than 8 group dances. All Star dancers may compete in group dances in both the Shining Star and Super Star divisions.

**Super Star** is for dancers who take 5 or more hours of dance per week. There is no limit as to how many dance they may appear in, but remember that no Superstar level dancer may appear in a Shining Star entry.

Placement should be made based on the highest recent level of training. If an older dancer goes from dancing ten hours a week to only taking tap one hour per week and doing a tap solo, they would still enter as Superstar, not Shining Star!

### On Point National Dance

**PLEASE NOTE, HOW MANY YEARS A PERFORMER HAS BEEN COMPETING IS NOT USED AS A CRITERIA FOR OUR LEVELS**

- **FIRST POSITION (recreational)**

Dancers that take 3 or less hours of dance per week, total class time, not each discipline of dance. Dancers in this classification are not eligible for regional or national title division. A student that competes in 5 or more routines cannot compete at the recreational level. Only groups comprised of all recreational performers will be able to compete at this level. **IMPORTANT:** If performer is moved up from recreational to intermediate or competitive level during competition, they will not be eligible for first in category or overall high scores. **THIS LEVEL IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CASH PRIZE.**

- **SECOND POSITION (recreational/intermediate/competitive)**

Dancers that take less than 6 hours of dance per week, total class time, not each discipline of dance. Dancers in this classification are not eligible for regional or national title division. A student that competes in 7 or more routines cannot compete at the intermediate level. Small and large groups that are comprised of recreational, intermediate and/or competitive level will be able to compete at this level. If there are more than 50% competitive performers, they will be bumped up to the competitive level. *Example, large group jazz has 7 performers who are competitive dancers and 3 performers are recreational/intermediate dancers would compete at the competitive level.* All lines and productions will perform at the competitive level. Dancers in this classification are not eligible for regional or national title division. **THIS LEVEL IS ELIGIBLE FOR GIFT CERTIFICATE ONLY**

- **THIRD POSITION (competitive)**

All dancers may compete at this level. If performer competes at the competitive level, they cannot compete at the recreational level. If you do not select an entry level, you will automatically be entered into the competitive level. All lines and productions will perform at this level. **THIS IS THE ONLY LEVEL THAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH AWARDS**

### Energy National Dance

**Star Division:** This division is for a dancer who takes a maximum of 3 hours of dance per week. It is for the novice/beginner dancer who has not attended much, if any, competitions. It is designed to let the novice dancers get the feel for competition, stage performances, judges, audiences, etc., and will be adjudicated, as well as receive additional high score awards within their division. It is NOT mandatory that beginner students enter at this Level.

**Power Division:** Dancers that study between 4-7 hours of class per week and have limited competition experience should consider the Power Division. This division will be adjudicated as well as receive additional high score awards within their division.

**Energy Division:** Dancers who take more than 8 or more hours of class per week and have significant competition experience should be considered for this division. The Energy Division is open to all performers and will be adjudicated, as well as receive additional high score awards within their division. Energy division is eligible for cash awards.

### **Precision Arts Challenge**

**ADVANCED** - This category is for a dance team, soloist, or duo/ trio take less than 3 hours of lessons in dance/acro per week. Please understand that it is not mandatory that you enter the Advanced level, it is simply available to your studio. No monetary awards will be given to routines in this level. This level is for dancers being introduced into the competitive circuit who are working on mastering basic techniques.

**COMPETITIVE** - This category is for a dance team, soloist, or duo/trio that take 3-6 hours of lessons in dance/acro per week. Please understand that it is not mandatory that you enter the Competitive level, it is simply available to your studio. No monetary awards/ gift certificates will be given to routines in this level. This level is for dancers who have mastered basic techniques and performance quality. These dancers would be considered advanced performers working on improving more difficult skills, techniques, combinations, etc.

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL** - This category is for a dance team, soloist, or duo/ trio that take 6 or more hours of lessons in dance/acro per week. This is the highest level you can compete at and will receive gift certificates to return to PAC for Overall scores.. Dancers in this level should be completely confident in their technique, performance quality, artistry, and athleticism. Skills performed will be judged on the dancer's ability to perform effortlessly and with precision.