RULES
REGULATIONS
CRITERIA

HOME OF THE WORLD DANCE CREW CHAMPION-SHIP

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AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

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THE WORLD DANCE CREW CHAMPIONSHIPS (1)

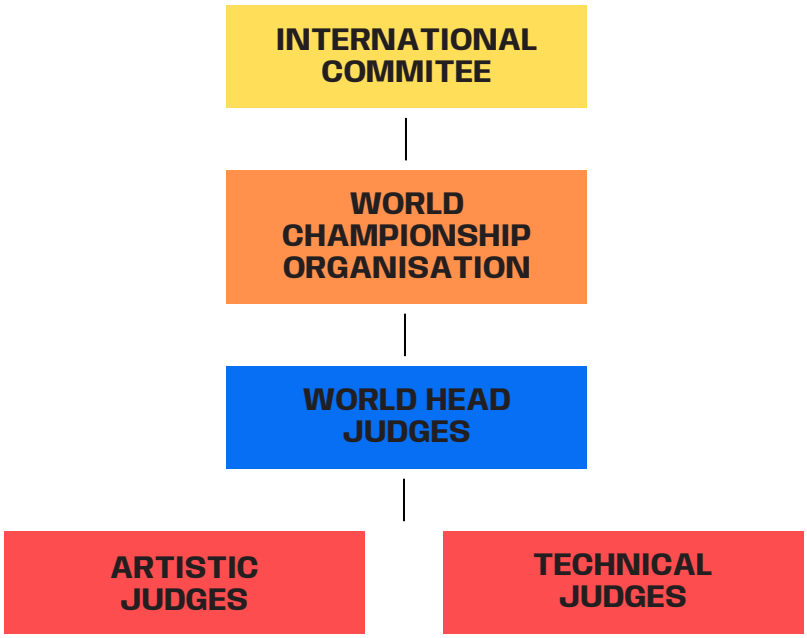
1.1 ABOUT US

The World Dance Crew Championships (WDCC), is a world class event encompassing all street, club, studio, and modern dance styles. The Championship brings together the artistry & performance of multicultural crews from around the world, culminating in the 2027 WDCC World Dance Crew Championship titles.

The World Dance Crew Championships are guided by an internationally represented committee designed to bring the global street dance community together to compete on a world class stage, crowning the best of the best.

All qualifying events, video submissions, and world championships will be conducted with and adhere to the official WDCC Regulations & Criteria.

1.2 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



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FORMS AND RELEASES

2.1 GENERAL

All registration forms & releases must be completed, signed, and received by the WDCC office prior to the registration deadline by ALL crew managers. These documents must be submitted with all appropriate identification. Fees must be paid before the payment deadline. Information can be found on our website, or email us at info@worlddancecrewchampionship.com.
Participants found falsifying information will be subject to disqualification.

2.2 CODE OF CONDUCT

The World Dance Crew Championships is a celebration of elite talent coming together to compete with the utmost respect for each other.
Participants are expected to represent themselves in a professional and responsible manner toward other participants and WDCC staff, both at the event and via social media.
Unacceptable behaviour will be reviewed by the Head Judge and appropriate deductions or disqualifications will be enforced.

2.3 INQUIRY & PROTEST FORMS

Inquiry forms are available upon request from the registration desk and are for clarifications only. Protests may be lodged for deductions, disqualifications, or unexpected circumstances. Results are final, any overturned decisions are at the discretion of the Head judge. Inquiry & protest forms will be responded to on the same day upon submission. Protests & Inquiry's for World finals are not permitted.

2.4 FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION

When submitting crew registration forms, photo ID is required for every competitor. If a crew member does not have a passport, a driver's licence or student photo ID is acceptable. If a crew member does not have any of the preferred forms of ID, a birth certificate can be submitted ALONG WITH a recent headshot photo of the competitor.
Participants found falsifying information will be subject to disqualification.
Passports are the only acceptable form of ID for crew members travelling internationally to compete at the World Championships.

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EVENT STRUCTURE SCHEDULE (3)

3.1 REGISTRATION – ONLINE

Register your crew online. Please refrain from using offensive crew names. WDCC has the right to refuse any inappropriate name and request an alternative or designate an appropriate name until one has been decided upon. Once registered online, each crew will receive a confirmation email. Each crew will also receive an event day check-in time, stage run time, and registration information.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WORLDDANCECREWCHAMPIONSHIP.COM

3.2 EVENT DAY – CHECK IN & REGISTRATION

Event check-in & registration must be completed in full prior to stage rehearsals. Music must also be submitted prior to competition day via the online form found on the "Register" page at www.worlddancecrewchampionship.com.

3.3 STAGE REHEARSALS

Each crew will be scheduled a 5-minute run-through with music. Scheduled run throughs will be forfeited if missed. Crews will be informed of any unexpected circumstances that prevent rehearsals or result in reduced rehearsal time.

3.4 CREW BRIEFING

Prior to the Preliminary competition, a crew briefing will take place for ALL teams. Representatives from each crew must be present. The judging panel will be introduced, Preliminary competition order confirmed, and important competition information given.

3.5 PRIZE-GIVING

World Medals for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place — World Championship Finals
Plate Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place — World Plate Finals
Prize Money — World Championship Finals

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR (4)

4.1 VIDEO SUBMISSION PERIOD

Start date: 1st September 2026
End date: 31st December 2026

QUALIFICATION (5)

There are two ways a crew can qualify for the World Dance Crew Championships:

1. PREVIOUSLY QUALIFIED & COMPETED AT THE 2025 WDCC EVENT

(Please progress to registering your crew online and adhere to age guidelines)

OR

2. VIDEO SUBMISSION

Submit a video of your routine online and obtain a score of 65.5 out of a possible 100 points. (Please refer to judging criteria)

VIDEO SUBMISSION QUALIFYING STANDARD & GUIDELINES

Previous competition/performance footage is acceptable.

The qualifying standard score for all 2027 Championship video submissions will be determined by a WDCC judging panel. Submissions must be uploaded in a clear format. The entire crew must be in frame, video filmed from the front with adequate lighting, & facial expressions should be visible if possible. The video routine will be judged with the WDCC criteria. Once registration has been completed, your video can be submitted via the online form under the "Registrations" tab on www.worlddancecrewchampionship.com.

Crews who qualify will be notified by email and will need to register & confirm crew members, & age by the required deadline. Any team failing to qualify via video submission will be notified via email. WDCC has the right to revise or include any crew vying to compete at the WDCC Championships, as WDCC understands that unexpected circumstances may arise from time to time.

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COMPETITION STRUCTURE (6)

6.1 PRELIMINARIES

All crews perform in random order and are scored in each division.
Semi-finalists are announced (Top half of division) & progress to SEMI FINALS.
The remaining teams are Plate finalists (lower half of division).

Example:
40 World Teams Qualify to the Junior Division.
The top 20 Junior Teams after prelims – Progress to SEMI-FINALS
The lower 20 Junior Teams after prelims – Progress to - PLATE FINALS

6.2 PLATE FINALS

Crews in the lower half of each division after prelims perform again on the same day as Semi-finals, but in the PLATE FINAL in reverse order and are scored. The top 3 crews in this Plate final will receive a Gold, Silver, & Bronze Plate award.

6.3 SEMI-FINALS

Crews in the Upper half of each division from prelims perform in reverse order and are scored.
The top 7 crews will progress to the WORLD FINALS.

6.4 WORLD FINALS

World finalists perform in reverse order and are scored.
The top 3 crews will be awarded Gold, Silver, & Bronze medals, as well as prize money.
All other crews in the finals are awarded WDCC place certificates.

6.5 WORLD FINALS DIVISION ORDER

Junior Division
Youth Division
Adult Division
Youth Super Crew Division
Open Super Crew Division

NOTE: Event organisers & Head Judges have the right to amend both the finalist numbers, & performance order when required. For any division which has less than 20 crews, all crews may progress to the semi-finals at the discretion of the Head Judge.

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DIVISIONS & REQUIREMENTS (7)

7.1 DIVISION INFORMATION

NOTE: Crews who have previously qualified and competed at the 2025 World Champs may compete in the following divisions but must satisfy the age requirements below:

JUNIOR DIVISION 5 - 9 Dancers

12 years & Under
Age as of DEC 31st 2026
MUSIC: 1:30-1:45mins (No less, no more)

YOUTH DIVISION 5 - 9 Dancers

13 - 17 years (Option to include up to 3 junior age dancers if needed)
Age as of DEC 31st 2026
MUSIC: 1:50 -2:10 (No less, no more)

ADULT DIVISON 5 - 9 Dancers

18 years & Over (Option to include 3 Youth age dancers if needed)
Age as of DEC 31st 2026
MUSIC 1:50 – 2:10 (No less, no more)

YOUTH SUPER CREW DIVISION 15 – 40 Dancers

17 & Under
Age as of DEC 31st 2026
MUSIC: 3:00-3:30 (No less, no more)
PROPS - Small hand-held props are allowable.

OPEN SUPER CREW DIVISION 15 – 40 Dancers

Open to all ages
MUSIC: 3:30-4:00 (No less, no more)
PROPS - Small hand-held props are allowable.

7.2 Participation limits

a) Dancers may compete in multiple divisions as long as they meet the age criteria & composition under Divisions & Requirements (Section 7).
b) Dancers may compete in up to two teams per division. (Competition order will not be amended to cater for possible back-to-back performances; this will be at your own risk).

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AGE GUIDELINES (8)

All participants' ages will be validated by the event organizer prior to the competition.

JUNIOR
BORN in 2014 or after
YOUTH
BORN in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, or on Jan 1st, 2014 (no later)
ADULT
BORN 2009 or before - You will complete as an Adult

CREW AMENDMENTS (9)

9.1 CHANGES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Crews may replace, add, or subtract registered dancers prior to, and in between rounds. Substitutes & additions MUST be registered.

1. Crews – Up to 3 Substitutes, 3 Additions, & 3 Subtractions (Total 5-9 members)
2. Super Crews – Up to 5 Substitutions, 5 Additions, & 5 Subtractions (Total 15-40 members)

If a NEW non-registered dancer needs to be added due to injury or unforeseen circumstances, they MUST be registered before the competition start time and approved by the Head judge.

**Unregistered dancers will be deemed invalid, and the crew will be disqualified.

9.2 INJURY & UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

Injuries must be reported to the event organizer during the competition period. The crew member(s) affected must have medical clearance to compete and be verified by the Head Judge prior to the stage run through and/or performance.

An additional waiver may be required, for lesser injuries before performing.

If, due to injury or unexpected circumstance, a 5-member-crew must dance with 4 members, they will still be eligible to compete, However, this will be at the discretion of the Head Judge, upon presentation of a medical certificate or proof of circumstance.

If a technical difficulty or injury necessitates a restart, a crew may stop immediately and leave the stage. They may also choose to finish the routine if possible and score will be given taking the event into consideration. A restart will we awarded if they choose to accept, and circumstances were beyond their control. A deduction will apply if the stoppage is unfounded, as decided by the Head Judge.

For all Injuries and unexpected/dangerous circumstances, the Head Judge in accordance with relevant information and advice, will then determine whether or not a dancer or team will be allowed to compete or perform. The decision will be final.

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ROUTINE & MUSIC (10)

10.1 CHANGES

Crews may change the routine and music prior to & during WDCC competitions. Music must be received by WDCC deadlines to accept the changed submissions. (1 hour prior to stage run).

10.2 MUSIC GUIDELINES

Music length is determined by the first and last audible sound.
Music must be free of any swearing, vulgar, or demeaning terms or language.
Any music identified as such during the stage rehearsal must be edited before the performance and resubmitted 1 hour prior to the event start time.

10.3 ROUTINE GUIDELINES

Dance styles should be Street, Club, Party, or Studio related. The number of styles performed is up to the crew. Cultural influence and innovation are allowable.

NOTE: A MIN OF 2 STYLES IS COMPULSORY.

Having too many styles can affect the flow of a routine & too few can limit the creativity, variety and contrast of a routine.
Recommendations for a well-balanced routine is 3-4 Styles.
Less than two styles will result in a deduction under difficulty (deductions are subjective to each technical judge).

10.4 ATTIRE & PROPS

Attire should reflect the styles and flavour of the chosen dance styles. Creative flair is up to the Crew and inclusive of clothing accessories such as hats, bandanas etc. Accessories like belt bags & backpacks are allowable as long as they are worn and not used as props. (Not Applicable to Super Crews.)
Super crews are allowed handheld props which are safe, not sharp, or heavy, and should not require any set up time.
Attire should be tasteful. Any dancewear deemed inappropriate will be given a Zero for attire (a loss of 5 points).
If the crew progresses, attire issues will be addressed by the Head Judge.

For any queries, please seek approval via WDCC Headquarters.

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CRITERIA & SCORE (11)

ARTISTIC SCORE

1. CREATIVITY — 20 POINTS

Dance choreography (10)
Routine Structure/Ideas (5)
Attire (5)
The display of unique movement & combinations within the chosen styles, showcasing creative flow, moments, ideas, & apparel that captures the street or dance style essence.

2. PERFORMANCE — 10 POINTS

Stage Presence (5)
Interaction & audience connection (5)
The ability to capture and hold the judge's attention through intensity, showmanship, subtlety, and the X factor. Crews form connections with other team members and the audience, utilizing facial performance and authentic emotion.

3. STAGE CRAFT — 10 POINTS

Formations & transitions (5)
Stage use & levels (5)
The presentation of well-crafted, signature formations & levels that transition seamlessly between dance sections to utilize different areas of the stage.

4. MUSICALITY — 10 POINTS

Beat, lyrical, & percussion interpretation (5)
Music Mix (5)
The creative use of musical patterns, beat and lyric interpretation, & the matching of movement with the music. The entertaining mix should include seamless transitions, creative mixing, flow, and adjusted sound levels for a well-thought-out, quality sound track.

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TECHNICAL SCORE

1. DIFFICULTY — 20 POINTS

Elements, Speed, co-ordination, & overall level of skill (20)

The demonstration of complex choreography, skills, & elements within the styles performed. Consideration is given to technique, strength, speed, coordination, and the overall ability of all crew members to showcase a high level of difficult choreography and combinations.

2. EXECUTION — 10 POINTS

Body control & placement (10)

The accurate isolation, control, and placement of the entire body, including balance, stabilization, speed, and angles of movement.

3. SYNCHRONIZATION — 10 POINTS

Timing, Synchronization & Range of motion (10)

Perfectly timed movements that are in sync with every member of the crew allowing for in cannon and off beat sections. The range of movement is the same and in unison.

4. FOUNDATIONS & INNOVATION — 10 POINTS

Groove & Style (5)

Authentic innovation (5)

The ability to demonstrate authenticity & embody the chosen styles, all while presenting a foundational knowledge and an individual touch or progression of the genre.

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RESULTS (12)

2.1 TABULATION
1. A panel of 6 judges will average all Artistic (3 Judges) & Technical (3 Judges) scores and then total for a score out of 100.
2. The final score will be rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point (e.g., 75.24).

12.2 RESULTS, PROTESTS & TIE SCORES
1. Scores are final.
2. Inquiries are available for disqualification & deductions at prelims and semi-finals. This must be lodged within 30 minutes of the results being posted. An outcome will be decided within 1 hour of the inquiry by the Head Judge.
3. Inquiries are unavailable for World finals and scores are final. In the event of a tie, the crew with the highest artistic score will break the tie. If the artistic scores are tied, the crew with the higher preliminary score will break the tie (consistency). If the Preliminary scores are tied, the results will stand as a tied result.

DEDUCTIONS & DISQUALIFICATION (13)

13.1 FALLS & MISTAKES
Falls, mistakes, missed choreography & attire that is not intact will affect the technical score under execution and synchronization.

13.2 MUSIC & MOVEMENT
Inappropriate music/choreography will affect the performance score.
For unacceptable music circumstances (e.g, Offensive language), crews will need to submit a new acceptable edited track prior to the competition start time in order to perform.

13.3 DISQUALIFICATIONS
The decision to disqualify a crew/crew member will be at the discretion of the Technical Director & Head judge. Circumstances include but not limited to:
1. Unacceptable behavior at any qualifying or world championship event.
2. Age or crew composition requirements unfulfilled.
3. Unregistered or unapproved dancers.
4. No shows (Failing to appear).
5. Any other circumstances deemed appropriate.

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13.4 DEDUCTIONS

- Late starts (failing to appear within 30 seconds once announced) will be deducted from the total score **(-5 points)**.

- Pre-performances and post performances are not permitted. Music will not begin until the crew is stationary. Post performances will be deducted **(-5 points)**.

- Super crews must begin with all crew members on stage (No mandatory time to stay on or end with all members). Crew members may exit and enter the stage throughout the routine via designated exits and entries only (e.g, no jumping off the front of the stage). **(-10 points)**.

- Junior, Youth, & Adult crews must begin, perform, and end on stage within the performance area. Failure to do so will result in a deduction **(-10 points)**.

- Discarding clothing into the audience area. **(-5 points)**.

- Use of substances, props, materials, & makeup, that might risk the safety or damage the stage or crew members e.g, Glitter, Paint, liquid, damaging shoes or props **(-5 points)**.

- The stopping and restart of a routine for no legitimate reason will receive a deduction **(-10 points)**.

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JUDGING (14)

14.1 JUDGING PROCESS

Judges will sit in an alternating 1 Artistic and 1 Technical judge order, with the Head Judge overseeing the panel. Tabulation will also take place at the judging panel.

14.2 JUDGES

HEAD JUDGE

The Head Judge will oversee all inquiry forms, protests, & allocation of judging panels. They will oversee the tabulation, panel processes, and sign off on all outcomes. Responsible for judge training, event processes, facilitating rules, criteria outcomes, overseeing the scoring panel, scoring ranges, and substituting scores where needed.

ARTISTIC & TECHNICAL JUDGES (6 JUDGES)

Will determine all Artistic or Technical scores & provide feedback

FEEDBACK (15)

15.1 GENERAL FEEDBACK

Feedback for each crew will be provided via your WDCC online account or print out report. Feedback is subjective to each member of the panel of judges at the WDCC event. Feedback may vary between judges.

15.2 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS FEEDBACK

5-minute feedback sessions may be available for progressing crews to World Championship Finals. This is available after the Semifinal session where time allows.

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AWARDS & PRIZE-GIVING(16)

PRIZE-GIVING

Prize-giving will take place after finals, in division order unless otherwise amended by the Head Judge.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS & PRIZE MONEY

Plate awards in each Plate Final	GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE
Medals awarded in each division	GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE
2V2 Champions	$1,000 NZD
2V2 Champions 2nd Place	$500 NZD

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CREW PRIZE MONEY

Junior/Youth /Adult

1st Place Crew	$3,000 NZD
2nd Place Crew	$2,000 NZD
3rd Place Crew	$1,000 NZD

Youth Super Crew

1st Place Crew	$4,000 NZD
2nd Place Crew	$2,000 NZD
3rd Place Crew	$1,000 NZD

Open Super Crew

1st Place Crew	$5,000 NZD
2nd Place Crew	$3,000 NZD
3rd Place Crew	$2,000 NZD

NOTE: Bank account for prize money will be confirmed and then become the dancers & managers responsibility to account for distribution.

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FAQS (17)

Q: CAN YOU SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE VIDEO SUBMISSION?
Answer: A crew only needs to submit one video per crew. Dance studios may submit multiple crew submissions.

Q: I COMPETED AT THE LAST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS CAN MY CREW REGISTER WITHOUT SUBMITTING A VIDEO?
Answer: Yes. Your crew automatically qualifies for the 2027 Championship as you have previously qualified.

Q: WHAT IF MY CREW IN 2025 HAS AGED OUT OF ITS DIVISION?
Answer: You may register an all-new crew in the same division or enter the existing crew in a new division that suits the age requirements. If your team is split in ages, you may enter 2 teams in the old and new division with new members if needed.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW WHAT AGE I SHOULD COMPETE AS?
Answer: Refer to 7.1 & 8 of the Rules and Regulations or reach out to WDCC for clarification (info@worlddancecrewchampionship.com).

Q: CAN MY CREWS VIDEO SUBMISSION BE FROM A PREVIOUS COMPETITION OR SHOWCASE?
A: Yes. Footage can be from a competition, performance, or studio rehearsal.

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CONTACT

EMAIL INFO@WORLDDANCECREWCHAMPIONSHIP.COM

WEBSITE WWW.WORLDDANCECREWCHAMPIONSHIP.COM

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