

# 2027 USA International Ballet Competition

## Rules & Regulations

### 2027 USA IBC Official Rules & Regulations

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## Rules & Regulations

### I. COMPETITOR REQUIREMENTS

#### ❖ DIVISIONS

- **Junior Division (Male & Female): 15-18 years old by June 12, 2027**
- **Senior Division (Male & Female): 19-26 years old by June 12, 2027**

#### ❖ **CATEGORY:** There are two categories within each division: Soloists and Couples. Participants must select ONE. Soloists and Couples will be judged on their division selection. In the case of couples, each dancer will be evaluated and scored individually. All classical variations presented in the Female Division are required to be performed en pointe.

- **Soloists:** required to prepare a total of 6 different solos.
  - **Round I:** TWO variations selected from the USA IBC Classical Repertoire
  - **Round II:** ONE contemporary solo
  - **Round III:** TWO variations selected from the USA IBC Classical Repertoire and ONE contemporary solo
- **Couples:** required to prepare a total of 4 different pas de deux.
  - **Round I:** ONE pas de deux selected from the USA IBC Classical Repertoire
  - **Round II:** ONE contemporary pas de deux
  - **Round III:** ONE pas de deux from the USA IBC Classical Repertoire and ONE contemporary pas de deux
    - Couples may be from the same age division (Junior & Junior / Senior & Senior) OR separate age divisions (Junior & Senior).
    - A competitor may appear with a competing partner (each scored individually) or a non-competing partner.
    - **Couples comprised of one Junior Division competitor and one Senior Division competitor are required to choose from the Junior Division Repertoire in Round I.**
    - Couples must appear with the same partner and always as a couple throughout the entire competition.
    - If a partner is eliminated, they are required to continue to appear with their partner in subsequent rounds, Awards Gala, and Encore Gala.

#### ❖ **CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE (Round I & III)**

**Competitors are required to select repertoire from the 2027 USA IBC Classical Repertoire.**

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- A classical repertoire list will be made available October 1, 2026.
- Dancers competing in the Male Division must select all repertoire from the approved Male Variation List.
- Dancers competing in the Female Division must select all repertoire from the approved Female Variation List.

### ❖ CONTEMPORARY REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS (Round II & III):

- Competitors must present a different contemporary work in Round II & Round III.
- Contemporary repertoire must have been created after the year 2020.
- Each contemporary piece should be between 2.5 to 4 minutes.
- Choreography should showcase dancer's range of abilities and highlight elements not seen in the competitor's classical repertoire selections.
- Original Choreographer is required to sign "Contemporary Choreography Agreement & Music Permission form" upon acceptance to the Competition.

## II. APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2027 USA IBC Competitor Application has two parts. Applicants and non-competing partners are required to complete Application Part I. A confirmation email will be sent after submission of Application Part I that contains a password for access to requisite music, video instructions, and a Dropbox file request link for video upload. The following deadlines will be adhered to with no exceptions.

### ❖ Application Part I: AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1, 2026

- **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 22, 2027**
- **FEE:**
  - \$125 per competitor
  - \$125 per non-competing partner
- **PHOTOGRAPH:** Upload 1 high resolution (300 dpi), color, headshot photo.
- **FORMS:** Electronically signed release and applicant agreement (included in Application Part 1).

### ❖ Application Part II (VIDEO) - AVAILABLE UPON COMPLETION OF PART I

- **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 17, 2027**
- Follow the video instructions and submit video using the Dropbox File Request link.
- Lost your Video Upload email? Email [artops@usaibc.com](mailto:artops@usaibc.com) to request a new Dropbox File Request link.

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### ❖ VIDEO GUIDELINES:

- **SOLOISTS:** Submit two variations from **Round I, Classical Repertoire**.
- **COUPLES:** Submit one pas de deux from the **Round I, Classical Repertoire** (must perform entrée, male and female variations, and coda).
  - **ATTIRE:**
    - **Women--** must wear pink tights that cover the entire leg and foot, pointe shoes and a leotard in a contrasting color from the background of studio. *No costumes, skirts, or practice tutus may be worn.*
    - **Men --** must wear black or white tights covering the entire leg and foot, ballet shoes, and solid color shirt in a contrasting color from the background of the studio.
  - **FILMING INSTRUCTIONS:**
    - The dancer should be shot directly from the center, with full body kept in view and in close range. No filming at angles.
    - Videos with edits or cuts will **NOT** be accepted.
    - Videos of live performances will **NOT** be accepted.
    - A replacement partner is allowed for this video if your competition partner is not available.
- **MUSIC:**
  - Dancers **MUST** use 2027 USA IBC Round I Music when filming.
  - Applicants must download all Round I tracks from USA IBC website using the password received in the email upon submission of Application Part I.
  - Any form of music alternations is forbidden, including any adjustments to the tempo.

*Video submissions will be rejected if the above video guidelines are not met.*

### III. SELECTION PROCESS

#### ❖ SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Competitors will be chosen by the USA IBC Selection Committee based on their application and video in March 2027.
- Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decisions via email .
- Those invited to compete in the 2027 USA IBC must accept or decline the invitation no later than March 31, 2027.
- Approximately 100 dancers will be selected to compete in the 2027 USA IBC.

#### ❖ AUTO ACCEPTANCE POLICY

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- The USA IBC automatically accepts dancers who have won a gold medal (first prize) or Grand Prix at the following ballet competitions:
  - 2026 Varna
  - 2026 Helsinki
  - 2026 & 2027 Prix de Lausanne
  - Finals of the 2026 Youth America Grand Prix (soloists)
- Applicants who meet the division requirements and have received one of these awards may waive the USA IBC selection process by submitting a copy of the certificate of award and Application Part 1 to the USA IBC by January 22, 2027. **NO EXCEPTIONS** will be made regarding this deadline, and no late applications will be accepted.

### ❖ FORMER COMPETITOR POLICY

- Former competitors are permitted to compete in a division if they have not received a medal in the division for which they are applying.
  - *For example: 1979 Bronze Junior Medalist, Gretchen Newburger, may compete in 1982 as a Senior competitor. Newburger is not allowed to compete in the Junior division again.*
- All former competitors must complete the entire application process.

### ❖ COUNTRY RESTRICTIONS

- The 2027 USA International Ballet Competition will not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian dancers and officials in its 2027 Competition in Jackson. Russian or Belarusian nationals may participate if they dance and reside in another country and participate under the flag of that country. No Russian or Belarusian national symbols, colors, flags, or anthems should be displayed.
- This decision supports resolutions passed by the legislature of the State of Mississippi in March 2022 condemning Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and barring any business between State entities and Russia

## IV. USA IBC XII COMPETITION FORMAT

**OPENING NIGHT: June 12, 2027** The Opening Ceremony includes a colorful Parade of Nations featuring competitors and flags of the countries they represent. The evening program will include a ballet performance in the second half of the evening.

**ROUND I, Classical: June 13-15, 2027 (6 sessions - matinee and evening performances).** All soloists perform two classical variations and all couples perform one classical pas de deux from the pre-selected junior or senior repertoire.

**June 16, 2027 – NO Competition Performances**

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**ROUND II, Contemporary: June 17-19, 2027 (3 sessions - evening performances).** Semi-finalists perform a contemporary selection of their choosing within the USA IBC contemporary guidelines.

**June 20, 2027 – No Competition Performances**

**ROUND III, Classical & Contemporary Competition Performances, & 1<sup>st</sup> Choreography Workshop Dance Performance: June 21-23, 2027 (3 sessions - evening performances).** Soloists perform two classical variations from the required classical repertoire and a contemporary solo. Couples perform one pas de deux from the required classical repertoire and a contemporary duet. Works performed in Round III must be different than those performed in Rounds I and II and must consist of different technical elements.

**June 24, 2027 – No Competition Performances**

**AWARDS GALA & 2<sup>nd</sup> Choreography Workshop Dance Performance: June 25, 2027.** Medals, awards, contracts and scholarships are presented in the first half of the performance. After intermission, medalists and prize winners perform classical (accompanied by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra) and contemporary works selected by the international Jury.

**ENCORE GALA: June 26, 2027.** USA IBC medalists and prize winners will perform a reprise of the works presented at the Awards Gala, accompanied by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

## V. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### ❖ ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- The order of appearance on stage will be chosen by random draw and announced no later than June 1, 2027.
- Competitors will appear in numerical order by division. For couples, the number of the female competitor will be used. Juniors will appear first on the program during each performance.
- The USA IBC reserves the right to adjust program order to avoid repetition.

### ❖ STAGE INFORMATION

- The competition takes place in Thalia Mara Hall on a stage with a Harlequin sprung floor, covered with a Harlequin performance surface. The stage dimensions are 60ft wide by 40ft deep (18.3 meters x 12.1 meters).
- All competition performances are held before a public audience.

### ❖ MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

- **Classical Music in Round I & Round III**

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- Competitors are required to use the 2027 USA IBC Official Music during Round I & III (classical repertoire). All music will be played from the master disc. Pitch control or tempo **MAY NOT** be altered.
- Links to the 2027 USA IBC Official Music will be available October 1, 2026.
- **Contemporary Music in Round II & Round III**
  - It is the competitor's responsibility to obtain proper authorization for the use of contemporary music in any contemporary dance performance.
  - You will need to submit your separate music files via the separate Round 2 and Round 3 USA IBC Dropbox links prior to your arrival in Jackson.
  - Please label your music files:  
**Competitor's Name\_ Title of Work\_Round 2**  
**Competitor's Name\_ Title of Work\_Round 3**
- **Studio Rehearsal Music:** Your studio rehearsal music should include music tracks for ALL rounds. You should bring your music files on any device (cell phone, etc.) that features a headphone or audio output. A speaker will be provided to play your music in studio rehearsals, however you should bring an AUX cord.
  - Studios will be furnished with bluetooth speakers. Technology specifications will be made available before the event. Please bring all adapters and chargers needed for your devices.
  - You will plug the cable from your audio device into the AUX IN connector on the back of the speaker.
  - It is recommended that you bring a USB flash drive of studio rehearsal music for all rounds with you to your studio rehearsal for backup.
- **Back-up Music:** Competitors are required to submit copies for Round II & III Contemporary music on a USB flash drive. This will serve as an emergency backup at Thalia Mara Hall during Technical Rehearsals and Performances.
- **Live Music:** Medalists appearing in classical works are required to perform with a live orchestra during the Awards Gala and Encore Gala. Technical rehearsal with the orchestra is provided. Recorded music may be used for contemporary works only.

### ❖ ADDITIONAL RULES

- The use of props must be pre-approved by the USA IBC.
- Competitors may not use oil-based body paint.
- Performance in the nude is not permitted.
- Competitors must furnish their own costumes and make-up.
- No Rosin is allowed on any stage, rehearsal spaces, or class studios.

## VI. SCORING

Competitors will be judged individually by a panel of jurors comprised of international dance dignitaries. Competitors are judged on artistry, physicality, technical skill, and musicality.

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- Based on a 10-point system, each juror will vote individually for each competitor in each round.
- After each round, approximately one-third of the competitors are eliminated based on the lowest scores.
- For each competitor, Round I & II scores are combined to determine the finalists who advance to Round III.
- Previous scores are discarded, and medalists are chosen based on Round III scoring only.
- The USA IBC does not release jury scores.
- Decisions of the jury are final and without appeal.
- The Jury reserves the right to withhold any medal.
- *Awards are NOT divided between competitors.*
- If an eliminated competitor chooses to depart Jackson prior to the awards ceremony, they forfeit their eligibility to receive any awards.

### VII. AWARDS

#### GRAND PRIX CITY OF JACKSON

Platinum Medal	Grand Prix Male or Female	\$20,000
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#### SENIOR DIVISION

Gold Medal	First Prize Male	\$12,000
	First Prize Female	\$12,000
Silver Medal	Second Prize Male	\$7,000
	Second Prize Female	\$7,000
Bronze Medal	Third Prize Male	\$5,000
	Third Prize Female	\$5,000
Best Couple	(\$1000 each)	\$2,000

#### JUNIOR DIVISION

Gold Medal	First Prize Male	\$6,000
	First Prize Female	\$6,000
Silver Medal	Second Prize Male	\$4,000
	Second Prize Female	\$4,000
Bronze Medal	Third Prize Male	\$2,000
	Third Prize Female	\$2,000
Best Couple	(\$500 each)	\$1,000

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

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Choreography Award (Awarded to a Choreographer)		\$3,000
Robert Joffrey Award of Merit		\$1,000
Jury Award of Encouragement	Male	\$1,000
	Female	\$1,000

*Round III finalists receive a cash award of \$1,500 sponsored by the Peggy Mize fund through the Community Foundation for Mississippi.*

### VIII. MAIN ACTIVITIES

#### ❖ COMPETITOR CLASSES

- Two daily competitor classes are available for competitors and non-competing partners.
- Eliminated competitors and their non-competing partners are encouraged to remain through the end of the competition. There are performance opportunities, choreography workshops, and networking events through our Company Corner.

#### ❖ COMPETITOR REHEARSALS

- One assigned daily studio rehearsal – one hour long.
- If a competitor chooses to forgo a rehearsal, they must notify the USA IBC Production Team. That rehearsal cannot be made up or rescheduled.
- One assigned required technical rehearsal, onstage at Thalia Mara Hall, prior to each round.

#### ❖ REQUIRED OPENING NIGHT REHEARSAL – SATURDAY, JUNE 12

- All competitors must take part in this rehearsal; failure to participate in the rehearsal or Opening Night will result in disqualification.

#### ❖ AWARDS GALA/CLOSING NIGHT REHEARSAL – FRIDAY, JUNE 25

- All competitors advancing to Round III and dancers participating in Choreography Workshop #2 will participate in the Awards Gala. Rehearsals for the Awards Gala are required.
- Medalists will also perform in the Encore Gala on Saturday, June 26.

#### ❖ CHOREOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Two workshops featuring a well-known choreographer are provided for eliminated competitors and their non-competing partners. Eliminated, competitors are required to participate in the Choreography Workshop to continue receiving complimentary accommodations, classes, and performance tickets.

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- **Choreography Workshop #1:** Competitors eliminated in Round I are required to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> choreography workshop and perform the dance work during Round III, Session 1 on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **Choreography Workshop #2:** Competitors eliminated in Round II are required to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> choreography workshop and perform the dance work during the Awards Gala on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### ❖ EVALUATION SESSIONS

It is important to the USA IBC that each competitor has a positive and constructive experience. Therefore, the USA IBC has arranged for competitors to have the opportunity to consult with qualified dance professionals regarding their performance during a private session to receive feedback from the adjudication.

- Sessions will be scheduled by USA IBC for each eliminated competitor.
- Evaluation sessions are intended for eliminated competitors only. Coaches, guardians, and non-competing partners are not permitted to attend these sessions.

### ❖ EDWARD STIERLE SHOWCASE – JUNE 20 AT 2:00PM

- The Edward Stierle Contemporary Showcase gives competitors eliminated in Round I an opportunity to perform their Round II or III contemporary piece before the USA IBC audience.
- Space will be limited.

## IX. TRAVEL AND HOUSING

### ❖ COMPETITOR TRAVEL

- Travel expenses to and from Jackson are the responsibility of the competitor.
- Please make sure to select the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport (JAN) when booking your flight to Jackson Mississippi.
- Adhere to all deadlines when submitting your flight itinerary to USA IBC.
- All ground transportation to and from the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport and official USA IBC events in Jackson, June 8 through June 26, will be provided by the competition at **no charge**.
- No transportation or housing will be provided for early arrivals.

### ❖ COMPETITOR ROOM & BOARD

- Room & Board for competitors and non-competing partners **ONLY** will be provided at **no charge**.
- All competitors and non-competing partners are **REQUIRED** to stay in the competitor dormitories (**double occupancy**).
- Competitors & Non-competing Partners housing is located at Millsaps College: New South Dormitory from June 8-26. No early or late accommodations will be available.

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- Eliminated competitors are encouraged to remain for the duration of the competition. However, competitors who choose to depart early or secure alternative housing must officially check out of the dormitory with IBC personnel and will forfeit complimentary meals and transportation benefits.
- All coaches and any other persons traveling with the competitor and non-competing partner are responsible for their own Room & Board.

### ❖ COMETITOR MEALS

- Competitors and non-competing partners will be provided free meals June 8 – 26. Breakfast & dinner will be provided at Millsaps Dining Hall. Lunch will be provided off site at the International Village.

### ❖ COACHES, FAMILY, AND OTHER GUESTS – ACCOMODATIONS

Coaches and all other persons traveling to the USA IBC are responsible for their own travel, room, and board. Coaches, family members, and all other guests are prohibited from entering or sharing a competitor's assigned housing by the USA IBC. There are several accommodations that are recommended by USA IBC for your convenience.

- The Westin is the official hotel for the USA IBC 2027 and is located in International Village next to the Theater. A discount rate will be available: TBA.
- The USA IBC Lodge will also offer discounted housing and meal plan options. More information will be provided upon acceptance.