



*Presented by Dance Force Xpress, LLC, and hosted by the Grand Blanc Dance Teams*

Visit the **MICHIGAN'S DANCE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP** page of our website for complete details!

Michigan's Dance Team Championship is an ALL-NEW competition experience. Our goal is to provide a welcoming yet highly competitive atmosphere where the talent of Michigan's dance teams will be on full display. Our panel of passionate judges will provide verbal video critiques, allowing your team the opportunity to continue to thrive! Dance Force Xpress has been hosting events in Michigan since 2012, and we look forward to welcoming you to our dance family!

### **DATE & LOCATION:**

Join us on Saturday, December 4th at Grand Blanc High School. The schedule will be available two weeks prior to the event. A map can be found on our website. The competition will take place in the gymnasium.

### **REGISTRATION RATES:**

First routine - **\$20** per participant. Additional routines - **\$10** per participant.

***Professional performance videos and action photos are included in your registration fees!***

If participation numbers fluctuate between routines, the routine with the largest number of participants must be registered as the 'First Routine'. Registration fees are **non-refundable, non transferable** unless a refund is requested in writing more than two weeks prior to the event.

### **SPECTATOR FEES:**

Spectator tickets are \$5.00. Children under 5 are free.

**DIVISIONS:** *Note: Teams must be an official school dance team at the team's school, or a district team that performs at specific school events. Teams can be considered sports, clubs, or programs. Dancers do not need to attend the same school, per the unique rules of the participating district. Teams may include members that are younger than the stated average age.*

**Collegiate;** teams consisting of team members who perform or compete as a Collegiate level team.

**Varsity;** teams consisting of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who perform or compete as a Varsity team.

**Junior Varsity;** teams consisting of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students who perform or compete as a JV team.

**Middle School/Junior High;** teams consisting of students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and below.

**Elementary;** 2 levels – average team age of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Lower, average team age of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up.

### **DIVISIONS BY SIZE:**

If more than 8 routines are registered in a Division/Category, the category may be split. For example, Small and Large Varsity. These divisions are not pre-determined, and will be based on the actual registered number of performers on teams.

## **2021 SOLO COMPETITION**

Dancers who are registered to perform with a team may also register to compete a solo. Participants may perform Hip Hop, Jazz, or Lyrical/Contemporary. Routines must be suitable for **all** viewing audiences. Solo routines must be at least 45 seconds, and no longer than 2 minutes and 30 seconds. Soloists may only compete one solo. Solo Registration - **\$30**.

Solo Age Divisions: **8 and Under, 9-12 Years, 13-15 Years, 16-18 Years, Collegiate**. Divisions may be split depending on the number of registrations. All Collegiate level dancers, regardless of age, will compete in the same division. Ages are determined by the dancers age on the day of the competition.

## **CATEGORIES**

*Each team is allowed to register one routine per category*

**Dance Tech Pom:** Fast-paced precision movements. Technical elements such as leaps and turns must be included in the choreography. A kickline is not required, but is allowed.

**Hip Hop:** A vibrant form of dance that combines a mixture of precision and often freestyle movements. Hip Hop has evolved into a popular and influential styles of dance.

**Jazz:** Use of technique with such moves as turns, kicks, leaps, extensions, etc. Encompasses the use of balance, flexibility, and control while utilizing the cues, lyrics, and tempo changes of the music.

**Lyrical/Contemporary:** Similar to the jazz category in regards to the technical elements, this category often adds expressive choreography and the use of emotions to tell a story or give a visual of the music or lyrics.

**PEP RALLY!:** **NEW!** Introducing the 'PEP RALLY!' division! Bring your ultimate school spirit to the floor and bring your fans to their feet! This semi-open division is inclusive of a variety of routines that you may already be performing at other competitions; *Game Day, Team Performance, or Spirit Showdown!* Total routine performance must be at least 1 minute and 30 seconds, but no more than 3 minutes. PEP RALLY is your opportunity to be uniquely YOU and showcase your school pride!

## **JUDGING CATEGORIES**

Appearance, Choreography, Skill Level/Difficulty, Rhythm/Timing/Precision, Formations/Transitions, Showmanship, and Overall Impression are each worth 10 points and are on ALL judging sheets.

In Dance Tech Pom, Jazz, and Lyrical/Contemporary there is a 10 point category for Technique.

In Hip Hop, there is a 10 point category for Style.

In Pep Rally!, there is a 10 point category for Audience Appeal/Connection/Enthusiasm.

Total possible points per judge is 80. There are 3 judges for each routine for a total of 240 points possible. All judges will provide verbal feedback, with each performance receiving three performance videos through their Dance Comp Genie account. Specific details on what the judges are looking for in each category will be emailed prior to the competition in the 'Guide to Judging – Michigan's Dance Team Championship'.

***Please note in advance:*** Choreography must be original competition choreography that is unique to your team. Routines, or portions of routines, that are recognized from clinics, camps, previous performances by your team or another team, and/or workshops may have points deducted in the choreography category.

## **REQUIREMENTS/RULES**

Every performer must have a signed release form turned in at check-in. All team routines must be at least 1 minute and 30 seconds, and no longer than 3 minutes. Solo routines must be at least 45 seconds, and no longer than 2 minutes and 30 seconds. Music must be submitted **at least one week in advance**, and will be loaded directly to your Dance Comp Genie account. Routines that do not submit music in advance will not be allowed to perform. Music will be available for all routines in the warm up gym, as well as the main performance gym. Music may not be changed or updated on competition day.

Teams may start anywhere on the performance floor. Timing will begin with the music, or with the first movement of an organized entrance. Timing will end with the completion of music. Exits will not be included in the timing of the routine if performed after the completion of music, but should not exceed 15 seconds in length. Upon submission of music, please note anything that we should be aware of such as music cutting out and coming back in, music for exit after applause, etc.

Handheld props are allowed in all divisions. Do not use or throw props on or off of the performance floor that might cause damage. The following items are NOT ALLOWED: liquids, gels, aerosols, glitters, powders, etc. Performance floor must be returned to its original pre-performance condition within 60 seconds.

Shoes must be non-marking. Any shoes that may potentially damage the performance floor will be required to be removed. Tap shoes are not allowed. Performers may wear any form of dance shoe or may go barefoot, although shoes are highly recommended for safety/sanitary reasons.

**Unsafe moves:** Any fall, drop, or landing where the complete body weight is unsupported (i.e. knee drops, body falls), stunts or partner moves where a performer is incapable of catching themselves or protecting their body from injury, or any tosses or throws of a performer without adequate safety measures/spotters are prohibited. Safety should be the first concern in regards to choreography. While we do not intend to limit choreography, and we cannot possibly list all prohibited movements and lifts, we stress that lifts and choreography should in no way be potentially dangerous to performers. If moves are in question, please send a short video clip to [Info@DanceForceXpress.com](mailto:Info@DanceForceXpress.com) for clarification. Although these are not requirements, please consider the following in regards to safety; *Are there spotters for a lift? Is there any motion where a head injury could occur? Have those who are lifting or supporting someone been properly trained to avoid strain or injury?* A 5-point penalty will be assessed for any routines not meeting, or exceeding, the time limit, or performing moves that are determined to be unsafe.

*"Dance Force Xpress stresses the importance of safety and requires participants to execute only those skills, techniques and practices that will not cause harm or injury to performers, spectators, or the facility."*

## **AWARDS**

Qualified and experienced judges will provide verbal critiques and score sheets. Coaches will receive video critiques through Dance Comp Genie within 48 hours following the competition.

Each performer will receive a placement ribbon for every routine. All team routines will receive a placement trophy or plaque. Medals/pins/or ribbons will be awarded for each performer in a first place routine. Special judges choice awards will be handed out at the judge's discretion. The number of solo placements will be determined by the number of registered performers.

**HIGH SCORE AWARDS** – Awarded to the highest scoring routine in each division; Collegiate, Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High, and Elementary. All routines in all categories are eligible for this award. Teams will be awarded a banner, and each participant will receive a ribbon. **High Score teams will also receive custom tee shirts following the event!**

### **REGISTRATION IS SIMPLE – ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 1st, 2021:**

- Visit [www.DanceForceXpress.com](http://www.DanceForceXpress.com) and click on the REGISTRATION tab to register online. *If you are new to using Dance Comp Genie, please watch our quick video tutorial on our website!*
- Set up a Dance Comp Genie account for your team through the link on our website. Each team should have their own account (i.e. Varsity and JV from the same school should each create an account to ensure coaches each receive appropriate emails).
- Enter your full roster of performers. You will be required to enter a first name, last name, and birthdate for each performer. Your roster must be added prior to registering routines.
- Go to the red 'ADD A NEW REGISTRATION' button. Enter an estimated number of routines for your team. This should include team routines and solos.
- Enter a 'Routine Title' – this can be as simple as 'Varsity Jazz', or 'JV Pom' – please avoid using music titles. Click on the green link to **“Add a new routine...”**
- Add the dancers that will be performing in that specific routine. Select either 'First Routine' or 'Additional Routine'. If the number of performers varies, please register the largest routine as the 'First Routine'. Select the category and level of the routine. Save the routine.
- Enter any additional routines in the same format. Solos are added by entering the routine name (Example: Jenny Solo) and enrolling a single dancer. The program will then register the routine as a solo.
- Complete the checkout screen. If paying by credit card, you will pay online. If a check will be sent through the mail, please be sure to 'complete' the checkout process by selecting this method of payment. Your registration will not be complete until you fully check out.
- Registration is due **November 13th, 2021**, and can be paid by credit card (online through Dance Comp Genie), school or studio check or money order. Online registration must be complete, and full payment must be received by the deadline.

*Registration may close early if event reaches capacity.*

### **IMPORTANT DATES – 2021:**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| September 1 <sup>st</sup> | Online registration opens through Dance Comp Genie                     |
| October 15 <sup>th</sup>  | Suggested latest date to submit invoices to your school administration |
| November 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Connect with your administration to ensure payment has been sent       |
| November 13 <sup>th</sup> | Final day to complete registration                                     |
| November 20 <sup>th</sup> | Schedule posted on the Dance Force Xpress website                      |
| November 27 <sup>th</sup> | Music due; upload to Dance Comp Genie account                          |
| December 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Competition at Grand Blanc High School                                 |

***Who will take home the title of Michigan's Dance Team Champion 2021? It could be YOU!***

*Please contact us with any additional questions. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.*

*We look forward to meeting you and your team soon!*

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