2023 N.Y.S.DC. & F.S.D.C. RULES AND REGULATIONS

*PLEASE READ CAREFULLY 2023 ENTRY RULES & REGISTRATION

Please complete your registration process online with our online registration system, which is the easiest way to register at www.nysdancechallenge.com/www.fsdancechallenge.com Create your account today at www.nysdancechallenge.com/www.fsdancechallenge.com at: www.dancebug.com You will begin by creating a listing of all your students and then you can begin to enter your routines. Students can be added, deleted or edited by the studio at any time until the event is closed. Be precise when doing online registration. When registering for competition, enter Participant Names and Studio Names exactly as they should appear in the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Program. Dancer's birth dates must be entered correctly or they will not be able to see their personal schedules and parents will not be able to download their videos. Please note registration will not be complete until payment is received. The Online Registration is open to you 24/7 until the event is closed in order to do scheduling for your regional city. Once the event is closed you will not be able to add entries or make changes.

ALL REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2023 SEASON MUST BE DONE ONLINE!

There is no automatic option for payment on the registration site. When you complete and finalize your entries online, you are alerting the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. office staff that you have completed your online registration process. A staff member will be in touch for a credit card payment. Entries will be accepted after the registration deadline when available. All funds must be paid in U.S. currency only. www.nysdancechallenge.com OR www.fsdancechallenge.com N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Toll Free #: 1-877-456-9732 *N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. assumes no responsibility for entries not received* Rules and Regulations are subject to change at any time and the most updated version can always be found on our website: All entries are to be postmarked 30 days before the 1st day of competition. In order for programs to be printed, this deadline must be followed. Entries are accepted from both studios and independent entries and will be accepted, on a first come, first serve basis. All studio/independent entries are limited to the amount of performance time available. Absolutely no personal checks/business checks for entries will be taken at the event, and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform. You are not registered for a regional, until full payment is received. Additional entries that are requested after invoices have been issued will be accepted on a case by case basis and will be charged at full amount, including late fees if applicable regardless of previously applied discounts. If these late entries are approved, payment must be received before they are included in the final scheduling. All entries must be accompanied by full entry fee payments. A $40.00 service fee will be automatically assessed for any and all checks returned to N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. from the bank. Rebate Programs will be voided if a check is returned for any reason. Online registration must be confirmed and paid for in order for entries to be processed. All competition fees are to be submitted on (1) cashier's check/money order. Bank money orders must be payable in U.S. funds only. NO BUSINESS CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PAYMENT.

Credit Card payments will also be accepted for payment. *Please Note that there is a 4% processing fee on all credit card transactions. ABSOLUTELY NO CASH REFUNDS!! A credit will be administered for a future regional or national. If a dancer cannot attend due to injury or illness, you must contact the

NYSDC/FSDC office at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event. NYSDC/FSDC will issue a credit to be used up to one year from the date of issue for any regional fees, provided the dancer submits a doctor's note within 30 days via email to newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com If eligible, a rebate check will be made payable to the name of the studio that originally registered. The rebate check will be mailed to the studio to the attention of the studio director. A $15.00 late fee per entry will be assessed for each entry received after the 30 day deadline as well as omissions and changes made at your request. All competition fees are per person, per entry. 2023 Regional & National ENTRY FEES are listed on our online registration portal. Fees are not posted on our website. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. releases prices to Studio Director's ONLY!!! *REBATE AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY DEADLINE FOR EACH CITY INDICATED. NO EXCEPTIONS! ENTRIES MUST TOTAL $1,500.00 OR MORE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE, ENTRY FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO QUALIFY FOR N.YS.D.C./F.S.D.C. REBATES AND INCENTIVES.

*Studios who received gift certificates in the 2022 dance competition season to be used in the 2023 competition season must deduct the gift certificates from your total entry fees before deducting any discounts or promotional offers. *Studio Owners who mailed in their deposit and are receiving a discount, discounts are only honored when you have mailed in your entry fees by the competition deadline date. *Gift Certificates awarded to studio owners hold no cash value. Gift Certificates are only to be used towards future entry fees in the immediate next competition season or the current upcoming National. (2023 National or 2024 Regional Season) *Studio Discounts or promotional offers is per regional event and cannot be combined with multiple regional dance competitions. *Gift Certificates will not be accepted after the deadline date of any Regional dance competition you are registering for your studio. SPECIFIC SCHEDULING REQUESTS MUST BE INDICATED VIA EMAIL TO: NEWYORKSTATEDANCECHALLENGE@YAHOO.COM OR FSDANCECHALLENGE@YAHOO.COM REQUESTS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS AND CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

We highly recommend that each studio by flexible when it comes to each regional city and the scheduling. If a competitor does not compete on the scheduled day for their division, their performance will be judged for adjudication but not for an overall top score award. Please set aside the entire weekend you are planning on attending to prevent scheduling conflicts with dancers. *Please note if using a NYSDC and or FSDC award certificate (s) as form of payment, a photo of the original certificate must be emailed to the office prior to registering for an event. The amount of the certificate will then be added as a credit to your studio account. Changes cannot be accepted 14 days prior to an event!! You will receive an email informing you of your competition/performance times/routine numbers one week prior to the first day of competition. Directors will receive their schedules one week prior to each regional. We ask that studios make all changes and edit to entries, via email to newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com or fsdancechallenge@yahoo.com.

Changes may be made online until entries are frozen for scheduling approximately 12 days prior to the competition. Any entries that require changes once the schedule is complete will incur a $5 fee, per change. Once schedules are posted, no routines will be moved. N.Y.S.D.C. & F.S.D.C. has their regional schedules setup based on the breakdown by solos, duos/trios, groups and lines for that particular regional city. We do not have breakdown in numbers until all of the entries have been processed, and at

that time we set up a schedule which will best accommodate the participants at that particular regional city/location. Extra breaks may be added if the competition is running more than 45 minutes ahead of schedule. If there are major scheduling conflicts, for example proms, weddings, within your studio, the requests due to the conflicts should be included with your online registration. If you find out after registration has been submitted, we must be informed via email of your scheduling requests no less than TWO WEEKS ahead of competition to appropriately schedule the routines (newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com)/(fsdancechallenge@yahoo.com). *Any requests that come in after two weeks in advance cannot be guaranteed.

LIVE EVENT PLAN A: If there are no CDC, local, state or federal mandates, we proceed as normal (prior to COVID-19) regarding the design and scheduling of the event. We will continue the safety protocols we have put into place regarding cleaning and disinfecting since COVID-19. However, our event schedule may be designed as a hybrid allowing for the blocking of ages and/or performance divisions during specific events. If a studio needs a specific accommodation, please contact our office for further information. LIVE EVENT PLAN B: If there are CDC, local state and/or federal government mandates, we will utilize Block Scheduling of studios which will limit the number of people in the venue at any one given time. The guidelines at that time will define our abilities and limitations and each Studio Owner/Director will be notified in advance of the directives, should we have to operate Under Plan B. Release forms will be attached to your scheduling detail that you will receive before your regional date. Release forms must be complete and handed in at our Registration Station at check-in at each of our regional locations. You may make a master sheet listing of all your dancers' with parent signatures. If N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. does not receive parent signature forms, dancers will not be allowed to compete.

!!!NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF COMPETITION!!!

Types of Entries: Solo's, Duo's & Trio's (Duo's & Trio's compete against one another), Small Group (4-9 competitors), Large Group (10-19 competitors), Line/Production Group (20-39 competitors) & Grand Line/Production Group (40+ Competitors) Time Limits: The time limit for all Solos are (2:45) minutes, Duos and Trios are (2:45) minutes each. Small Groups are limited to three minutes (3:00) in length. Large Groups have a time limit of four minutes (4:00). Line/Production Groups have a time limit of five minutes (5:00) and Grand Line/Production Groups have a time limit of up to seven minutes (7:00).

One point will be deducted for every five seconds over the time limit. *NYSDC AND FSDC will allow a 10 second Grace Period for each routine. After a routine is 10 seconds over the time limit, 1 point will be deducted for each second past the Given Grace Period. (If you need additional time, you may purchase up to 3 additional minutes of time for any Group, Line, Production/Grand Line Production Only for $5.00 per dancer, per additional minute. Additional Guidelines: *Any person who is visible on stage once the routine has started, and prior to the end of the routine, will be considered a performer and is subject to age division and group size rules. ● There is no limit to the overall number of entries a studio may submit, however competing dancers cannot compete against themselves in the same category with identical performers. ● The same competitor cannot compete more than once in the same category and age group in a SOLO entry. ● Soloists may compete in up to three solos. Only the highest scoring solo will appear in the highest score awards. Solos may not be registered for solos in multiple levels. ● If a

Soloist receives a 1st Placement award in one NYSDC/FSDC city, they ARE able to compete the same solo at any other NYSDC/FSDC for the remainder of the season. ●Soloists will be divided into male and female categories and by exact age. ● In a Duo/Trio, at least one dancer must be different when competing in the same category. Competitors are allowed to compete against themselves in Groups and Lines. ● The exact same performers may not place more than once for High Score in the Solo, Duo, or Trio Division. ● Competing dancers are to compete for one studio only. ● Dancers and Routines may compete in more than one NYSDC/FSDC Regional City. ● Entries must compete prior to their awards ceremony to be eligible for High Score Awards. ● High Score Awards will be given in each competition level, age and size division. ● Vocal routines are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 6 or more in the division. If there are 6 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded. *NYSDC/FSDC DOES allow for Independent Entries* However, if the dancer is from a studio, we ask that they register under their studio and director. A dancer cannot compete as an independent if they have previously competed under a studio in the same season.

2023 CLASSIFICATION & AGE DIVISIONS:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE ENTERED CORRECTLY INTO THE CORRECT CATEGORIES, AGE DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATIONS!!! EACH ENTRY LEVEL IS ELIGIBLE FOR HIGH SCORE AWARDS INCLUDING OUR RISING CHALLENGER/CHALLENGER/RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATION! NEW FOR 2023!

RISING CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/FOR THE BEGINNER STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER HAD ANY COMPETITION EXPERIENCE! (1-1.5 HOURS OR LESS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This New Level for our 2023 Season is for the beginner student who has NEVER competed! This level is for the dancer who is new to all styles of dance with limited time in the studio. Basic movements that have recently been introduced to the Rising Challenger Student or Students!

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CLASSIFICATION WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED AND ANY STUDENTS THAT ARE MISSPLACED IN THIS CLASSIFICATION WILL BE MOVED UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL IF NECESSARY!

CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/RECREATIONAL (2-3 HOURS OR LESS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is recommended for students coming into the competition dancing world with limited competition experience. No dancers in the Challenger Level may compete in the Top Challenger Level. *Average of all Dancers in a Group* Basic foundation movements include: Single Pirouettes, Double Pirouettes, Battements, Fan Kicks, Pivot Turns, Chaine Turns, Pique Turns, Simple jumps and leaps (grande jete, side leap, calypso and attempting of intermediate leaps without mastery, Basic Tumbling Skills: Cartwheel, Roundoff, Forward and back rolls, Split, Handstand, Front walkover and Back bends) For Tap: Dancing on the balls of the feet: Ex. Shuffles, Flaps, Ball Change, Cramp rolls/double cramp rolls, Toe heel, Beginner Time Steps etc. Choreography should be simple for dancers focusing on musicality and clean execution. In the Challenger Classification the dancer should be able to show the ability to perform Front and side battements, Front and side extensions and Penche. In this level, the dancer shows the understanding of the movements, technique and expression in a routine but skills are not yet mastered.

HIGH CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/INTERMEDIATE (3.5-5.5 HOURS OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is designed for dancers with moderate competition experience. *Average of all Dancers in a Group *Dancers in this level should be able to properly execute basic dance skills and begin some advanced movements. Movements include: Double and Triple Pirouettes, Fouette Turn Sequences. Leap and Jumps should include: Reverse leap, Open pas de chat, Switch leaps. For Acro: Front and back walkovers, Back tucks, Front Limber, Front and Back Handspring, Aerial, Dive Rolls and Tumbling Passes. For Tap: Intermediate to Advanced time steps, Paradiddle, Single and double pullbacks, Alternating cramp rolls, Wings/switching wings, Paddle Turns, Time steps with turns (Maxie Ford), Turning riffs, Syncopation and Toe Stands. In the High Challenger Classification the dancer should show understanding of the movements, technique and expression in a routine. Skills are executed with minor inconsistencies in control and balance. The Dancer appears to perform at an intermediate level.

TOP CHALLENGER CLASSIFICATION/ADVANCED (6 OR MORE HOURS OR MORE OF DANCE INSTRUCTION PER WEEK) This level is designed for dancers with a higher level of technical abilities and significant competition experience. *Average of all Dancers in a Group *Dancers in this classification should have the necessary skills to compete and excel in their chosen discipline. In this level, Dancers should be able to execute Multiple pirouettes, Fouette turns three or more in a continuous sequence, Turns a la seconde, Double Attitude Turns, Hinge, Advanced extensions, Switch leaps, Switch tilt, Aerials, Scorpions, Switch arabesque, Leg catches. For Acro: Front and Back Flips, Back Tuck, Flat Isolations, Layouts and more intricate tumbling passes. For Tap: Advanced Time Steps, Double pullbacks, Wings, Switching wings, Single leg wings, Alternating cramp rolls, etc. In the Top Challenger Classification the dancer should have a core strength, visual lines and expression through movement in all skills and movement. Skills are executed with little to no inconsistencies in steadiness, control or precision. Please note this is only a small sampling of skills and is not meant to be a complete list.

*PLEASE MAKE SURE TO PLACE YOUR STUDENTS IN THE CORRECT PERFORMANCE CLASSIFICATION. CRITIQUES WILL BE GEARED TOWARD THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION. Studio Directors: Please note you may need to adjust the level of each dancer before registering for a competition. Please be sure to reevaluate and update your dancers experience levels prior to registration for a new season. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMANCE LEVELS: *Class time includes any and all rehearsal time as well as scheduled weekly classes. *Any entry that contains 50% or more of the next level of dancers must be entered into the high level. For example, Two Top Challenger dancers and 3 High Challenger dancers must be entered in the High Challenger Level. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Judges reserve the right to change the performance division of an entry if they feel it is incorrectly placed. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. and their judges reserve the right to bump up any routine deemed improperly placed, making a routine ineligible for Overall Awards. In a routine that has dancers from different classification levels, more than 50% of the dancers must be from the classification level that they are competing in. Group routines placed in the Challenger/Recreational Classification must consist of all Challenger/Recreational Dancers.

NYSDC/FSDC has 6 Ages divisions plus a Parent and Adult Division. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. AGE LEVEL DIVISIONS: MINI STAR DIVISION: 3-4 YRS. PETITE STAR DIVISION: 5-6 YRS. RISING STAR DIVISION: 7-8 YRS. JUNIOR STAR DIVISION: 9-12 YRS. TEEN STAR DIVISION: 13-15 YRS. SENIOR STAR DIVISION: 16-19 YRS. PARENT DIVISION: A ROUTINE THAT HAS PARENTS ONLY. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED

ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP PARENT AWARD) ADULT DIVISION/PRO-AM DIVISION: 20 YRS. & OLDER—WHICH MAY INCLUDE ANY STUDIO DIRECTOR, FULL TIME INSTRUCTOR, STUDENT INSTRUCTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER AND/OR WORKING PERFORMER WHO IS 20 YRS. AND OLDER. (THESE ROUTINES ARE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND COMPETE FOR THE TOP ADULT/PRO-AM AWARD) *THERE ARE NO CASH AWARDS PRESENTED FOR THE PARENT OR ADULT DIVISION. ALL AGES ARE AS OF JANUARY 1ST 2023. For example: Ages for November 2022 events will be as of January 1 of 2023, and ages for April 2023 events will be as of January 1 2023. To reach the average age of an entry, add all the ages and always drop the decimal point. For example, if a routine average is 12.5, you would drop the decimal, therefore the routine would compete in the 9-12 Junior Star Division. For Duos, Trios and Groups, the average age determines the age group in which they perform. Competitors will be responsible for producing proof of age (ex. Birth Certificate, Drivers License, etc.) to the competition directors should an age question arise. All protests must be presented in writing within one half hour of the incident to the directors of N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. All protests must be signed. Group and higher routines are allowed to go into a higher age category than the average age of that particular group. All names and ages of all dancers must appear on the registration for any given entry or it will not be accepted. In the event of a tie, ties will be broken by the highest technical score.

2023 MUSIC

The staff at New York State Dance Challenge Inc. & Florida State Dance Challenge Inc. sound technicians, and/or venue staff assume no responsibility for poorly recorded music. ***ALL MUSIC MUST BE UPLOADED ONLINE THROUGH DANCEBUG NO LATER THAN 10 DAYS FROM THE START OF EACH REGIONAL*** Always have a back-up of music with you in another format (ex. IPOD/IPHONE) just in case. ϑ Music Performance Licensing: All Studios and Independent Competitors shall procure, in advance, all licenses required by any music performance societies, such as ASCAP, BMI and SESAC, for music or other works to be utilized or displayed in connection with the Event. Licensee agrees to make direct payment and accounting to ASCAP, BMI, SESAC and any other similar organizations for the use of musicians and/or musical works in the Event and at the request of the Licensor to furnish proof of payment.

2023 PROPS

Fire, Swords & Knives are prohibited. No liquid, gel, aerosol, glitter or similar substance that would affect the dancing surface is allowed unless specifically approved by N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Props are allowed, however they must be freestanding. Hand Props are also permitted in all categories. Scenery or backdrops requiring the use of theater fly bars may not be used. Special fog or smoke is not permitted unless specifically approved by N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. If the stage is littered during a routine, please be prepared to clean it up immediately after the routine is finished. Props requiring an electric outlet are strictly prohibited!! N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. will not supply power. Please do not build props backstage as this presents a danger to our competitors. Competitors cannot stand above 6’6” on the prop. Props which exceed 10’6” in height cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. No props or costume pieces are to be thrown into the judge’s area or audience. Safety of our competitors, judges, staff and spectators is our number one priority. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. reserves the right to not allow a prop. No baby powder,

confetti, glitter, hairspray, unweighted helium balloons, gels, water or paint will be allowed due to safety concerns. Any props, including mats, are welcomed at the New York State Dance Challenge and Florida State Dance Challenge. To avoid delays, we ask that you keep setup and removal time to a one minute maximum. All Props must be marley floor safe. A Human Prop is a person acting as a prop and one that can be seen clearly by the audience, but does not dance with the group. Human props must pay as a participant, however, they will not be factored into the age level of the routine. If a person enters the stage simply to hold up a prop from the back and cannot be seen by the audience, they are not considered a human prop and do not have to pay as a participant.

N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. 2023 JUDGES

New York State Dance Challenge and Florida State Dance Challenge's panel of judges are well-trained professionals with a strong knowledge of all facets of dance. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Judges Qualifications must include: academic training and certification, practical and diverse training, industry work experience and a likable personality. Our judges will take choreography, technique, showmanship and precision into consideration while judging. Each judge will award up to 100 points per entry. The total score of the three judges will determine the ranking of the entry. In the case of a tie, the tie will be broken based on the highest technical score of all three judges combined. Adjudications will be uploaded to your account within 3-4 days of each regional event. TECHNIQUE UP TO 35 POINTS, SHOWMANSHIP UP TO 25 POINTS, CHOREOGRAPHY & CONTENT UP TO 15 POINTS, PRECISION UP TO 15 POINTS, COSTUME/MUSIC/OVERALL APPEARANCE UP TO 10 POINTS. EACH JUDGE CAN AWARD UP TO 100 POINTS PER ENTRY BASED ON A PANEL OF (3) JUDGES All decisions made by the panel of judges will be final. Studio Owners, Studio Teachers, Competitors and or Parents are not permitted to discuss scoring, comments or results with the panel of judges. A protest may only be initiated by a Studio Director. It must be signed and submitted in writing to the director of the show within 30 minutes of the incident involved. Protests may not be submitted after an awards ceremony. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. judges will also take into consideration whether routine or age appropriate and placed into the correct classification level. Within 24 hours after each event, all score sheets and online critiques will be made available to Studio Directors.

2023 VIDEO/PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEO TAPING, MOVIE CAMERAS AND ALL STILL CAMERAS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED

This includes FaceTime and Video Chats of any kind. (Disqualification could result if rules are not followed) This rule has been implemented to protect the artistic rights of the choreographers and competitors that have worked hard to produce their pieces of work. Videotaping and Picture taking is also prohibited in the dressing room areas. Studio directors and teachers, please inform your students and parents of this rule, Thank You! It is the dance studio's responsibility to inform their students and parents of the NO video or photography rules that N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. has set in place.

THE NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE AND FLORIDA STATE DANCE CHALLENGE MAY PROVIDE EACH COMPETITOR WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACTION PICTURES OF COMPETITORS WHILE PERFORMING AND VIDEOS OF ENTRIES. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT EACH

REGIONAL. By performing at THE NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE AND OR FLORIDA STATE DANCE CHALLENGE, you are consenting to the use of photographs and/or video footage for promotional purposes. A LIVESTREAM MAY OR MAY NOT be provided in each Regional City during the 2023 Season. NYSDC/FSDC cannot guarantee a good enough connection from the venue to do the live stream or the connection is intermittent. NYSDC/FSDC will be unable to give advanced notice on whether an event will be Live Streamed or not.

IMPORTANT COMPETITOR/STUDIO DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Competitors please be ready to perform 1 hour prior to your performance time. You must be prepared to perform when scheduled. In the interest of running on time, NEW YORK STATE DANCE CHALLENGE AND FLORIDA STATE DANCE CHALLENGE, reserves the right to modify the schedule. Please note that AWARDS could run ahead of schedule on any given day of competition. *Please plan on being at awards one and a half hours (1.5) before the start of awards in case of running ahead of schedule. No competitor will be allowed to perform out of order UNLESS it is accepted by the back-stage manager and or competition directors. The back-stage manager will need to be notified of any changes to the schedule by the studio director. During the duration of the competition, a delay on any routine will only be for a reasonable costume change. Competitors will be allowed 10 minutes for costume changes and then should go directly backstage. A two-point deduction will be made for dancers that leave the stage without completing the performance. Dancers will have the option to re-perform the routine, but for adjudication only. If they choose to perform again, they will not be eligible for overalls.

ALL ROUTINES MUST COMPETE ON THE DAY AND TIME ASSIGNED. ALL ENTRIES WHICH DO NOT COMPETE ON THEIR ASSIGNED DAY AND TIME WILL BE ADJUDICATED ONLY AND WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR TOP SCORE AWARDS. The venue address and other important information will be available on the event page. The doors to the venue will open one hour prior to the start of competition as shown on your schedules when you receive them. This will allow dancers and spectators access to the lobby, dressing rooms and the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Merchandising area!!The doors to the auditorium/theater will open 30 minutes prior to the competition start time. Only performers, teachers and staff are allowed on stage before, during and after a competition Rosin IS permitted in the stage area of the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C.Venue Location. Access for crossovers will depend on each venue setup. Please plan entrances and exits accordingly for all situations. Dancers may not jump on or off the stage. For safety reasons, dancers should stay at least 1 foot back from the edge of the marley floor. For their safety, dancers should never dance off the marley floor. Only same gender parents and teachers are allowed in the designated dressing areas—NO EXCEPTIONS!! Any studio that delays the competition because they are rehearsing will have 10 points deducted from their total score. A positive attitude and professional sportsmanship is expected at all times from competitors, studio teachers, studio directors and spectators. Any questions regarding routines should be brought to the attention of the competition directors and or the back-stage director by studio director only. All entrances and exits must be done from Stage Left or Stage Right. NO entrances or exits from the front or back of the stage will be permitted. Exiting into the audience is strictly prohibited. For the safety of all participating in the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C., please keep all aisles and stairwells clear and do not block emergency exits. Cellular Phones need to be turned off or put on vibrate mode while seated in the house section of the theater

during competition. When possible, Stage Dimensions will be provided in each Regional City. Please be prepared to share dressing rooms or facilities at the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Venue space and availability may not allow for individual dressings areas. We will however, try to accommodate each studio with their own personal dressing room area. Studios do not have the right to reserve a dressing area. Any studio, dancer or parent that abuses the designated dressing area will be disqualified from the competition. All competitors, teachers and directors are responsible for cleaning their dressing area and disposing of all garbage. Stretches, spacing, placement of competitors, etc. may not be done on the competition floor/stage prior to, during, or following any event. This activity will only be allowed during breaks. Please be respectful of others if practicing in hallways or other outside areas. There is no admission fee into the event by spectators. There will be programs available for sale at a cost of $8.00 each to spectators in each regional city. Studio Directors and Teachers will have Special Reserved Seating at all of our Regionals and at our National! Air horns, clappers and other noise makers are strictly prohibited at all NYSDC and FSDC events. No special lighting request can be accepted at competitions. All routines must perform in full stage light (full wash). Studio Owners, please log into your NYSDC/FSDC registration account for fee pricing. Pricing is not given over the phone or via email. Each studio director upon registering, will receive a welcome packet including a complimentary gift bag full of goodies, Drawstring bags for each studios' competing dancers and a program of each day's events. Studio Directors will be responsible for dispersing their group's bags. Our hospitality lounge will be for Studio Directors and Teachers Only. This area will provide a comfortable, quiet area for Directors and Teachers to go to when needing to take a break in between their busy times throughout the duration of the Dance Challenge. Food, Drinks and Activities will be provided throughout the duration of each day's competition in our hospitality lounge. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. reserves the right to extend, decrease or delete regional city days/date or change the location of the event if need be. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. reserves the right to adjust the competition schedule if necessary. If for some reason a venue does not run, a full refund will be disbursed. The Staff at the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. asks that only Studio Directors call or email our offices and not parents. Solicitation and or advertising of any kind is strictly prohibited by N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. With the exception of judges and the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. staff, there is to be no food or drink in the auditorium or theater space including all awards ceremonies. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. Participants can compete in more than one city. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. and each hosting venue location are not responsible for any kind of damage, loss or injury sustained by competitors or spectators or their property while attending any area of the venue premises. Dancers competing take certain inherent risks when engaged in any physical activity. Participation in this competition indicates the acceptance of such risks by the performers. Therefore, upon registration to any N.Y.S.D.C. event, it is agreed that participants will not hold New York State Dance Challenge Inc. and or Florida State Dance Challenge Inc. it's directors or staff responsible for injuries that occur or illnesses that may be contracted during the competition event. Studio Owner Directors agree to adhere to the Release of Liability Clause which is completed during the registration process. Due to N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. being a public event, N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. encourages all attendees to: *Supervise children at all times *Be responsible for personal belongings *Be award of surroundings and inform a N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. staff member of unsuitable or suspicious activity *Stay safe and have fun while attending N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. events! Any person (s) who damages venue property either inside the venue or outside, will disqualify the entire group with which he or she is affiliated. Any person(s)

who causes damage as mentioned, will assume full responsibility for repair, replacement and/or restitution.

Typical Scheduling for NYSDC/FSDC Events for the 2023 Season will be as follows:

NYSDC/FSDC does not have a set scheduling format. Scheduled are determined based on the number and type of entries received, and takes into consideration scheduling requests and conflicts submitted during the registration process. NYSDC/FSDC events begin no earlier than 8:00a.m. and end no later than 10:30p.m. Friday events will start after school hours. NYSDC/FSDC reserves the right to structure its competitions in a nontraditional scheduling format (such as block scheduling) if the circumstances warrant it. NYSDC/FSDC must follow state, local, and venue guidelines regarding mask policies and capacity limitations and will inform studio directors of related requirements or scheduling format changes prior to the show. Changes in scheduling format or mask policies are not grounds for a refund.

2023 CATEGORIES

ACRO/GYMNASTICS: This category must contain controlled moves (ex. Limbers, handstands, walkovers, chest rolls, etc.) This entry may also contain gymnastic passes, flexibility moves and or contortionist moves. Choreography should have dance and Acro/Gymnastics combined together. ADULT CATEGORY/PRO-AM: 20 Yrs. & Older—Which may include any studio director, full time instructor, student instructor, choreographer and/or working performer who is 20 yrs. and older. Please note that this is the Only Category that the above listed may enter. Any style of dance will be accepted into this category. Any and all dance styles are permitted under the Adult Category. Teachers cannot compete in student categories. Adult Groups are not eligible for any High Score, Overall High Score or Choreography Awards. The Adult Category will compete for the TOP ADULT AWARD which will include a trophy or plaque and a $25.00 Gift Certificate to be used towards 2023 Nationals or 2024 NYSDC/FSDC Fees. ALL MALE GROUP/MALE SOLOIST: This category must include all male dancers. Any style of dance will be accepted into this category. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. BALLET: This category must include classical or contemporary ballet movements and technique. Ballet slippers only, no Pointe shoes allowed in this division. **No gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. NEW FOR 2023! BALLROOM: This category must consist of core elements of ballroom repertoire showcasing Traditional or Latin techniques.

BATON: This category consist of a routine using a baton (s). **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. CHARACTER: This category must portray a character throughout the entirety of the routine. This character can be from a movie, play, television, Broadway etc. or a stereotype such as a doctor, animal, cowboy etc. Lip syncing is acceptable in this category. Any form of dance can be included. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

NEW FOR 2023! CHEER-DANCE: This category consists of cheerleading or dance team technique. May incorporate the use of hand props.

CLOGGING: This category consists of clogging technique and the routine performed in clogging shoes. **Three acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category.

CONTEMPORARY: This category must have lyrical or jazz movements fused with modern elements throughout the choreography. The entry should show extension and balance. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

ETHNIC/FOLKLORIC: This category must contain an ethnic style of dance such as Hawaiian, Spanish, Polka, Irish, etc. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. GRAND LINE/PRODUCTION (40+PERFORMERS): This entry must include at least 40 competitors incorporating any style of dance and/or Acro/Gymnastics. Grand Production Lines have a time limit of 7:00 minutes. Any entry consisting of oversized floor props and sets must be placed in this category and or the Line/Production Category regardless of the style of dance. All Production entries are automatically eligible for Top Score Awards in their age class and classification.

HIPHOP: This category must consist of street, funk, or MTV video style jazz technique. This routine should represent the current trendy style of today's dance. The entry must contain 80% hip-hop style. Entries that are also suggestive, sexual, violent, or otherwise not age appropriate will be disqualified at the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. directors' discretion including the use of inapproiate music. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

JAZZ: This category must contain primarily classic jazz technique incorporating the foundation of fundamental jazz style and combinations. Kicks, splits, isolations, etc. are examples of fundamental jazz style. Basic jazz choreography must be used and no more than 20% hip-hop styles. **Three gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

NEW FOR 2023! KICK!: A kick routine incorporating the creative use of kick styles with an inclusion of a variety of dance skills/choreography and staging. Kicks must be utilized for a minimum of 75% of the routine.

LINE/PRODUCTION (20-39 PERFORMERS): This entry must include at least 20 competitors incorporating any style/styles of dance or Acro/Gymnastics. Production Lines have a time limit of 7:00 minutes. Any entry consisting of oversized floor props and sets must be placed in this category and or the Line/Production category regardless of the style of dance. All Production entries are automatically eligible for Top Score Awards in their age class and classification.

LITURGICAL: A style of dance in the religious theme, which may incorporate any of the above styles of dance. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks is allowed in this category.

LYRICAL: The competitor must interpret the lyrics, mood and content of the music used in this category. The entry should tell the story of the music. The entry must also include the elements of balance, flexibility and control. **Three acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category. NEW FOR 2023! MILITARY: A military routine is a form of percussive dance that emphasizes a significant level of control and focus. It should contain but not be limited to clean, crisp movements with visually complex arm, hand and or leg lines.

MODERN: This category must consist of stretch and flex in the legs and feet, combined with the use of contraction and extension in the body. The competitor must also have the ability to work both on and off center to create interesting lines. This entry should also include balance, control and extension movements. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks is allowed in this category.

MUSICAL THEATRE: This category must consist of movements interpreting a song from a Broadway or Movie Musical past or present. The music selection should incorporate dance, characters and or costumes. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

OPEN: This category is for any routines that do not fit existing categories or a routine which is a combination of 2 or more of our dance categories (excluding Acro/Gymnastics) Open entries would include Cheerleading, Clogging, Belly Dance, Ballroom, Baton, Novelty, Pompon, etc. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

PARENT CATEGORY: All Parent Entries will compete under this category. Any and all dance styles are permitted under the Parent Category. Parent Groups are not eligible for any High Score, Overall High Score or Choreography Awards. No professional dancers or dancers under the age of 18 are allowed to compete in this category. The Parent Category will compete for the

TOP PARENT AWARD which will include a trophy or plaque and a Gift Certificate that can be used at 2023 Nationals! POINTE: This category must include classical or contemporary Pointe technique and steps. Pointe Shoes Only. **No gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

POM/DRILL TEAM: A routine consisting of cheerleading or dance team technique. Sharp clean movements including kicks, jump and formation changes with the use of poms. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

SONG & DANCE: This category must contain both live singing and any category of dance. (50% Dance, 50% Singing) No LipSyncing Allowed. Accompaniment must be on CD and there must be no lead voices on the CD. (5 points will be deducted for lead voices on CD. Back-Up vocals are permitted.) Judging will be based on both singing and dancing. *Props and Acro/Gymnastics are permitted in this category. New York State Dance Challenge Inc. and Florida State Dance Challenge Inc. will provide up to two microphones for competitor's use to be used in the Song/Dance category. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. does not allow any additional equipment to be hooked into the sound system, therefore, no personal microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY: A routine choreographed by students with minimal assistance from an instructor. **Any number of Acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category. The Student Choreography winner receives a trophy or plaque and a NYSDC/FSDC gift certificate. Student Choreography Award: To be eligible for this award, the routine must be choreographed by a student participating as a dancer at this competition. If a routine is choreographed by a student, it can be noted on the entry form. The best student choreographed routine will be recognized at the final awards ceremony of the event. TAP: This category must consist of tap technique and primarily tap work. Tap shoes only. No tap sounds in the music will be permitted. **Three gymnastic/acrobatic tricks are allowed in this category.

VOCAL: A routine that is any type of vocal presentation, no lead vocals are allowed, however, backup vocals are permitted. Vocal categories will have their own set of high scores. Identical to dance high score rules: *Vocal entries are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 5 or more in the division. If there are 5 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.

NEW FOR 2023! IMPROVISATION SOLO/DUO/TRIO DANCE OFF:—In the improvisation category, the soloist, duo or trio is entered in the style of his/her choice. Those competing in the duo/trio improvisational performance division will also be judged on their partnering and improvisational connection. Judges will choose a song in that genre, dancers will get to listen to 20 seconds of the music before performing a 1 minute improvisation solo. Attire for Category: The dress code for the Improvisation is at each dancer's discretion. Depending on the selected category division shoes are optional. We do strongly encourage dancers to wear clothing that will allow the judges to see your body lines and that will not restrict your movements. Dancers from this category division will not be eligible for High Score or Overall High Score Awards

NEW FOR 2023! INSPIRATIONAL STAR!:--N.Y.S.D.C. AND F.S.D.C. is proud to present this new category for our 2023 Season!! This category is designed to celebrate and recognize dancers that have exceptional mental and/or physical disabilities or special needs. If registered in this Inspirational Star Category, all solos must compete in this category specifically. Dancers that register for this Category must be placed under the Challenger Classification. Dancers registered in this category are eligible for Overall Top Scores and Cash Prizes. Dancers registered under the Inspirational Star Category are eligible to register for Title.

PHOTOGENIC CATEGORY--: For each Regional competition, there will be one Junior Most Photogenic winner (age 11 & Under) and one Senior Most Photogenic winner (age 12 & Above). All entries must submit a recent photo – no larger than 8' x 10' – labeled with name, age, address, phone number and studio name on the back. Photos may be in Color or Black and White. All contestants must be registered at the Regional/National event to enter the Most Photogenic competition. The entry fee for the Photogenic Category is *$20.00 Per Picture and photos must be uploaded prior to the competition. NO photogenic entries may be added to the competition on the day of the event. One Picture Submitted Per Entry. Absolutely no mailed photos or photogenic entry fees will be accepted in the NYSDC/FSDC Office. Each winner will be announced and presented with a plaque or trophy and gift certificate. All Regional winning photographs will not be returned. NYSDC/FSDC is not responsible for loss or damage to any photograph not picked up at the end of the competition. These awards will be presented to the contestants judged to be most photogenic based on the following criteria: Visual appeal, Expressiveness of the dancer, Age appropriateness, Composition, Lighting and Quality of the photo. There must be a minimum of (10) entries in this category in order to grant a winner. Winners will be announced on stage at final awards for each age group.

TOP COSTUME AWARD: If you wish to enter the Costume Category, please check appropriate box when you register that routine online. The participant must be a registered NYSDC/FSDC contestant during the current competition season. All entries in the costume contest will be judged during the performance of their routine. The solo award will be presented to registrants who receive the highest scores based on

design, overall impression, fit, etc. in all Age Levels. One Award will be presented to the Best Duo/Trio and One Award will be presented to the Best Group/Line Costume in all Age Levels. This registration must be done in advance during the Registration Process. We will not be accepting any registrations on the day of each Regional. Winners will be announced at the Final Awards Ceremony.

NEW FOR 2023! TITLE: Title is scored separately for each participant on a scale of 70-100 taking Stage Presence, Overall Appeal, Uniqueness, Showmanship, Costuming, Technique, etc. into consideration. TITLE IS A NON-GENDER SPECIFIC CATEGORY for the Title Competition. In order to register for Title, this must be done during the Registration process by the Studio Director. *You may enter a maximum of three solos per individual in the Title Competition. Each Title Champion winner will receive a Dance Challenge Jacket and one free solo entry at any regional competition for the 2024 Season. There must be at least 5 contestants entered in each Age Division/ classification in order to hold the Title Champion Competition in each Regional City. If the required number of entries are not submitted in the Title division, the title division will not be held and the fees will be refunded. If there are 6 or more soloists running for title in the same division, a runner-up Title recipient will be awarded. The title Competition is available to all levels of dancers: Rising Challenger, Challenger, High Challenger & Top Challenger. A crown will be awarded at each classification. The fee for this is $50.00 per entry. Regional Title Participants must register the same solo that they competed with at Regionals for National Title. Title divisions are a separate category from standard solo categories and as such, routines entered into standard solo categories may not be duplicated and performed again in Title Division. Title and Solo are considered two different categories and require two different routines should a dancer decide to compete in both. Please note: Title Winners are also eligible to win Overall Awards. Title Age Divisions: MINI STAR DIVISION/MINI STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 3-4 YRS. PETITE STAR DIVISION/PETITE STAR REGIONAL TITLECHAMPION: 5-6 YRS. RISING STAR DIVISION/RISING STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 7-8 YRS. JUNIOR STAR DIVISION/JUNIOR STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 9-12 YRS. TEEN STAR DIVISION/TEEN STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 13-15 YRS SENIOR STAR DIVISION/SENIOR STAR REGIONAL TITLE CHAMPION: 16-19 YRS. N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C.

MISSION STATEMENT: The New York State Dance Challenge and Florida State Dance Challenge strives to bring Studio Directors, their Teachers & Students together along with their peers to create a friendly, creative and positive experience while competing. We at N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C. strive to provide each dancer with the opportunity to display their talents and abilities as performers of the stage. Tarah and her staff ensure that Studio Directors, their Teachers and all Dancers are treated with respect and taken care of from start to finish, from the easy process of our online registration system, through the duration of the competition itself and the after competition support. No one will be treated as just a number at the N.Y.S.D.C./F.S.D.C.

If you have any questions regarding the New York State Dance Challenge/Florida State Dance Challenge or registration, please call our toll free number at 1-877-NYDANCE (1- 877-456-9732),

Email us at newyorkstatedancechallenge@yahoo.com or fsdancechallenge@yahoo.com

Our Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 195 Hornell, NY 14843 OR 5246 5th Street Circle W Brandenton FL 34207
Toll Free Number: 1-877-NYDANCE (1-877-456-9732)