



**SOUTHERN FEDERATION
OF DANCE**

PO Box 2218
Rowville VIC 3178
Telephone 03 9752 9202
Email info@dancesfd.asn.au

SFD Melbourne Solo, Duo/Trio, Scholarship & Choreographic Competition

Dates: **Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July 2026**
(Scholarship Technical Class - 21st June 2026)

Venue: **The Round - Theatre & Studio**
379-399 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading VIC 3131

Competition Entry Fees:

Solos (includes Choreographic & VCE Skills)	\$35.00
Duos/Trios (includes Choreographic Sections)	\$18.00 (per person)
SFD Scholarships (includes Technical Class)	\$80.00
Compulsory Competitor Pass Fee	\$20.00

Entries can be made via: www.comps-online.com.au

Registrations close on 4th March, or earlier if sold out.

- The SFD Scholarship is only open to qualifying SFD Exam students. All participants must be available for Scholarship Technical Classes on [Sunday 21st June 2026](#) (refer to rules for details)
- Separate Competitor Pass Fees are required for both our Solo/Duo/Trio and Troupe events. Participants performing in both events must pay for 2 separate Competitor Passes.

Tickets for all audience members must be purchased directly through the venue
<https://www.theround.com.au/>

SFD Melbourne Solo, Duo/Trio, Scholarship & Choreographic Competition Rules

Who Can Enter:

1. Entry is open to all Dance Schools.
2. Scholarships Sections are only open to candidates who have successfully entered a Southern Federation of Dance examination in any style within the previous two years and are currently attending an SFD member school, (last exam date and result must be added to the entry questionnaire or emailed). Students will be eligible to enter a Scholarship in a style other than that which they have completed their exams in. Refer to the Scholarship Section for further details.
3. Solo, Duo/Trio, Own Choreography and Scholarship sections are only open to amateur competitors. Performers deriving an income from full or part time professional dance are not eligible to enter.
4. Students attending a full-time dance course (more than 15 hours per week) or teaching unsupervised for more than 6 hours per week will not be eligible to enter Solo, Duo/Trio, Own Choreography and Scholarship sections.
5. **Choreographic Sections** are for students who choreograph and perform their own dances. **No Teacher input is allowed.**

Registration:

1. Entries must be lodged via www.comps-online.com.au (payment will be accepted via credit card or a PayPal account)
2. Registrations may close early, prior to the advertised closing date, if sold out. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Compulsory Competitor Passes include a complimentary digital program but do not include audience entry.
4. For Duos and Trios, the names and birth dates of each competitor must be given at the time of entry.
5. No person will be allowed to compete under any name other than that submitted on the registration form.
6. Competitors can only enter within their own age group.
7. One (1) entry only will be allowed from each competitor in Duo & Trio sections. An exemption will only apply if sections are combined by the Organiser.
8. Performers must be available for all advertised competition dates. Refunds will not be provided for scheduling conflicts.

Age:

1. The competitor's age on **January 1st** of the year of the competition will be deemed to be the age of the competitor for entry.
2. The correct date of birth of each entrant must be supplied at the time of registration.
3. For Duos, Trios and Troupes, the section entered will be determined by the age of the oldest entrant.
4. Proof of Age must be presented upon request and the Committee reserves the right to withhold any prize money, medal or trophy until such ID has been sighted.

Novice/Open:

1. Competitors who are **7 years and over** must enter as Novice or Open for **solo sections only**.
2. A competitor must enter the **OPEN** section if he/she has won either **1st, 2nd or 3rd place** in that particular style at any dance competition previously.
3. Once in an Open section, a competitor will always remain in Open in following years, in that particular style, even when moving to a higher age category.
4. There will be no Open sections for competitors **in 6 years & under** age groups.
5. Novice ruling is taken from the closing date and not from when the entry is completed. If a competitor should gain a place before the closing date, the committee is to be notified via email and the competitor will be transferred to an OPEN section.
6. The committee reserves the right to combine Novice or Open sections if not enough entries have been received.

Time Limits:

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| 1. Solos, Duos & Trios | 3 mins (with the exception of Song & Dance/Tap which can be up to 4 mins) |
| 2. Troupes | 5 mins |
| 3. Scholarship Solos | 3 mins |
| 4. Choreographic Solos/Duos/Trios | 2 mins |
| 5. VCE Dance - Skills Solos | 4 mins |

Programming & Scheduling:

1. Timetabling can only occur after the event has closed and the total number of participants are known.
2. Performance times listed in the program are approximate and cannot be guaranteed.
3. The Committee reserves the right to change/combine/cancel sections if insufficient entry numbers are received.
4. Competitors cannot request specific days for performances.
5. Refunds will not be given for non-attendance or change of mind.
6. If SFD is forced to cancel the competition due to Government restrictions or other unforeseen circumstances, refunds will be provided less booking fees & credit card fees.

Music:

1. Please ensure that music choices are suitable for family audiences.
2. SFD will be using a Music Upload program to manage music for this event. All tracks must be legitimately purchased and cut to the correct length for the dance. Further information on how to upload your music will be supplied when the program is distributed.
3. Music will not be accepted in any other format.
4. A back up copy of music on an iPod, iPad or Smart Phone must be readily available on a device to be taken to the Music Technician (side stage), in case of faults.
5. Teachers are responsible for their own copyright & music licensing.
6. The onus is on all performers/account holders to check that the correct music track has been submitted to the Music Upload site. If there is a music issue, the following procedures will occur:
 - a) If music is skipping or playing up during a competitor's dance, the sound technician will turn off the music allowing students to continue without music.
 - b) If a competitor stops dancing and leaves the stage due to faulty music/jumping/stretched/skipping they will be given the option of repeating their dance at the end of the section with alternate back up music, without disqualification.
 - c) If a competitor continues dancing without music, they will not be disqualified. They will be given the option of repeating their dance at the end of the section with music.
 - d) If music is faulty on a repeat performance, the competitor can decide whether to leave the stage or continue without music. The competitor will not be disqualified for music issues beyond their control.

Adjudication:

1. Adjudicators will be appointed by the Committee.
2. The Committee reserves the right to substitute an Adjudicator in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
3. Competitors must not be or have been a pupil of any Adjudicator(s) during the six months prior to the Competitions. (This excludes one off Workshops/Summer Schools). If an Adjudicator or student connection is discovered at the competition, then the performer can dance for Crit only.
4. Communication with the Adjudicator(s) either by competitors, teachers or other interested parties during the Competitions is strictly prohibited. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify a competitor for any breach of this rule.
5. The competitor and teacher must accept as final any decision made by the Adjudicator(s) and/or the SFD Committee and no correspondence will be entered into.
6. In Novice Sections, Adjudicators may opt not to Award 1st, 2nd or 3rd places, if the standard of competitors is not deemed high enough to move them to an Open level.
7. The onus is on the competitor to collect all medals, ribbons, trophies, critiques and prize money.
8. For Own Choreography sections, competitors will be adjudicated on choreographic skills and not technical abilities.

General Rules:

1. The Committee reserves the right to cancel and refund any section if insufficient entries are received.
2.
 - a) Competitors must book in backstage at least **45 minutes** prior to the publicised start of their section.
 - b) Competitors must be ready backstage at least **half hour** prior to the start of their section. Once checked in, competitors must remain in their designated dressing room area until summoned by an SFD representative.
 - c) Competitors must be ready to take their places on stage at the given time and must compete in the order in which their names appear on the running sheet.
 - d) If not present when called upon, competitors are liable for disqualification.
3. Movement of a performer to the end of a section can only be considered if the candidate is scheduled to perform again within 8 dances of a previous section. This will be accommodated where possible, upon application with the music check in desk.
4. Late competitors will be allowed to perform at the end of the section for crit only.
5. Where a competitor leaves the stage before time (for reasons other than faulty music) and requests a second attempt;
 - a) The competitor will be placed at the end of the section.
 - b) The competitor will not be eligible for a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize.
6. Teachers are responsible for all competitor requirements and to ensure all dates, times, music, are correct.

7. Choreography, Music and Costuming must be suitable for a family audience.
8. For Child Protection purposes, only teachers or anyone carrying a Working with Children Check are allowed backstage if over 18 years of age. If you are intending to be backstage as a support person to a performer, you must apply for a Volunteer 'Working with Children Check' which is free and can be applied for online.
9. Teachers will only be permitted to remain side stage for the duration of their student's dance items.
10. Competitors must comply strictly with the time limits stated. They will not be adjudicated after the specific time has elapsed and are liable for disqualification for any breach of this rule.
11. The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any competitor for any action not in accordance with any of the rules of the Southern Federation Dance Competitions.
12. All care has been taken in the compilation of the schedule and the Committee reserves the right to rectify any errors or omissions.
13. It is agreed upon entering this competition that participants, including students, parents, teachers and other spectators, will not hold Southern Federation of Dance or its committee or volunteers, or host facilities liable for injuries sustained, illnesses contracted by them or loss of property while in attendance and/or participating in any activity related to this event.
14. The decision by the Committee regarding any matter not provided for by these rules will be final.
15. The use of mobile phones, iPads, video cameras, cameras or other recording devices by members of the audience during the Competitions **is strictly prohibited**. Offenders will be removed and recorded material will be erased in the presence of a Committee member. Failure to comply with this rule may risk disqualification.
16. Protests are to be made in writing within 20 minutes of adjudication, and before the end of the next section. A deposit of \$50.00 must accompany any protest, which will be forfeited if deemed frivolous.
17. Alcohol must NOT be consumed by any competitor, at any time, in any part of the theatre. Any breach of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, and the offender will be asked to leave the theatre.
18. **Competitors in Under 13 sections MUST NOT wear pointe shoes.**
19. No lighted candles, naked flames, fresh fruit, flowers, vegetables or glass may be used on stage.
20. All props must be able to be set up or removed within 30 seconds. A responsible adult must accompany a competitor with props, to help position them on stage. No curtains will be provided to place props on stage.
21. To protect the modesty of performers, **it is compulsory for all dancers to wear tights** with costumes that expose the upper leg line.
22. Prize money and vouchers may only be collected by placegetters. If placegetters are not there at the end of the section, prizes, trophies and medals will only be held until the end of the competition, after which time these prizes will be forfeited. SFD will not post or arrange collection of any prizes once the event has closed.
23. No personal filming or photography is allowed from the wings when a performer is dancing on stage.
24. No personal filming or photography is allowed in Dressing room/Change areas, other than in front of the SFD Media wall.
25. Filming or photographing performers in the auditorium is prohibited at all times and breaches child protection laws. Anyone caught videoing students from the audience will be asked to delete their footage and risks disqualification of their child.
26. If entering Broadway Jazz sections, a candidate can only enter in Novice if they have not placed in any Jazz or Broadway Jazz section in the past.

Media and Publicity Consent:

SFD may use brief excerpts of videos or photographs of dancers for promotional purposes. By participating in this competition, you consent to having photos or videos taken by SFD's designated social media manager for event coverage. If any performer does not give consent for their image/s to be shared, it is the responsibility of the parent/performer to notify SFD in advance. Please ensure that the performer knows to step out of any publicity photos or videos.

Important Information:

Students competing in both the Solo, Duo/Trio, Choreographic, Scholarship Competition as well as the Troupe Competition will need to pay Compulsory Competitor Pass fees for both events.

Solos or Duos/Trios: \$20 Compulsory Competitor Pass Fee

Tickets for all audience members must be purchased directly through the venue <https://www.theround.com.au/>

SFD SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Scholarship Competition is divided into two parts:

Part 1 - Scholarship Technical Class will be held prior to the start of the Competitions (see date above).

Part 2 - Solo Stage performance in the Scholarship section PLUS a separate Open Solo in a different section of choice.

Requirements of Entry:

1. Scholarship candidates are only eligible to enter if their studio is a **current financial member of SFD**.
2. Scholarship Sections are open to candidates who have successfully entered a Southern Federation of Dance examination in any style within the previous two years, (last exam date and result must be listed at the time of entry).
3. Students will be eligible to enter a Scholarship in a style other than that which they have completed their exams in.
4. Scholarship Sections are only open to amateur competitors. Performers deriving an income from full or part time professional dance are not eligible to enter.
5. Students attending a full-time dance course (more than 12 hours per week) or teaching unsupervised for more than 6 hours per week will not be eligible to enter Scholarship sections.
6. Candidates must participate in an unseen technical class to be scheduled before the competition commences.
7. Candidates must perform a solo on stage in the selected style on the designated performance day - that is NOT repeated in any other section.
8. Candidates must enter at least **one** other **different dance**, in any style, in an **Open solo section** of the SFD competitions in the same year (*this does not include Own Choreography Sections*).

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP - Age Range: 13 years & under

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP – Age Range: 14 - 17 years

Registration:

1. The competitor's age on **January 1st** of the year of the competition will be deemed to be the age of the competitor for entry and the date of birth of must be supplied on the entry form.
2. Entries must be lodged before the closing date by Online Registration. No late entries will be accepted.
3. The Scholarship entry fee does not include entry fee into the open solo section. Please include this as a separate payment.
4. No refunds will be given.
5. The committee reserves the right to combine Junior and Senior Scholarship Sections within the one style if not enough entries are received. In this instance, candidates will attend the same technical class and perform in the same solo section, with prizes awarded separately for both Junior and Senior.

Technical Classes:

1. The technical classes will be held prior to the start of the SFD Competitions.
2. Exact times and venue will be confirmed when the general competition program is emailed.
3. Entrance into the scholarship acknowledges attendance on the technical class dates.
4. Steps/Combinations given in the technical class will be of an "unseen" nature, at the Adjudicator's discretion and not based on the SFD syllabus.

Technical Class Dress Requirements:

Classical: **Option 1** - Ballet leotard, (any colour) skin tone/pink ballet tights, soft ballet shoes. Ballet skirts are not permitted.
(Junior Classical Scholarship - Tutu is compulsory for solo stage performance, pointe shoes are NOT permitted)
(Major Classical Scholarship - Tutu is compulsory for solo stage performance. Pointe shoes are compulsory)
Option 2 - Ballet leotard, dance support, plain solid colour tights with white or black ballet shoes.

Tap: **Option 1** - Leotard and tights (any colour), skirt or fitted dance shorts, tap shoes - sport or cuban heel.
Option 2 - Fitted dance singlet or T Shirt (any colour), dance support, tights/leggings or shorts, tap shoes.

Jazz: **Option 1** - Leotard and tights (any colour), fitted dance shorts, jazz shoes.
Option 2 - Fitted dance singlet or T Shirt (any colour), dance support, tights/leggings or shorts, jazz shoes.
Jazz sneakers and flared dance pants are not permitted.

Solo Performance Time Limits: 3 mins for all categories

Music Specifications: Junior & Major Tap solos must include 2 temps (fast & slow)

Props: Refer to rule 19 & 20 in the General Section.

Prizes Awarded:

1. A trophy and/or voucher/monetary award will be presented to candidates achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the completion of each Scholarship.
2. After performing in their Scholarship Solo section, candidates will receive a sash before final stage presentations.
3. Onus is on the candidate to collect all monies, trophies, critiques and sashes.
4. The Adjudicator will assess performances in both the technical class and stage solo before awarding prizes.
5. The Adjudicator's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Scholarship General Rules:

All rules from the general sections apply to the Scholarship sections with the following additions.

1. Candidates must perform at least one additional solo in an Open Solo Section in the same competition year. This solo must use different music and choreography to all other solos. Failure to compete in this registered Open Solo will result in disqualification from the Scholarship.
2. The required Open Solo may be a different dance style to the Scholarship entry. The Scholarship solo may not be repeated as the qualifying Open Solo.
3. Candidates entering multiple Scholarship styles are only required to perform one Open Solo.
4. Tap Scholarship entrants (Junior and Major) must include both fast and slow tempos within their Scholarship performance.
5. Written or personal communication with the Adjudicator during Technical Classes or Scholarship performances is strictly prohibited. Breaches may result in disqualification.
6. Scholarship entrants must complete the full Technical Class.
7. Candidates may enter Classical, Jazz and/or Tap Scholarships in their appropriate age group.
8. Junior and Major Scholarship winners may re-enter Scholarship sections the following year in their age group, provided all entry criteria are met.
9. Placegetters receive a trophy and may have photos published on SFD social media, promotional material and newsletters. Entry implies automatic consent. Requests to opt out must be submitted in writing prior to the competition, and performers must also notify the photographer at the event.